January 10, 2006

The Honorable Arlen Specter
Chairman,
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member,
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Leahy,

We are law professors who strongly support the confirmation of Judge Alito to the Supreme Court of the United States. None of us is a registered Republican. Based on our personal experience with Judge Alito, however, we strongly support his elevation to the Supreme Court.

Each of us has worked with or known Judge Alito at different points in his professional life. Some of us attended law school with him. Others worked with him during his tenure at the Solicitor General's Office and the Office of Legal Counsel. Some clerked for him. Others have encountered him either as advocates or in other capacities during his tenure on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Each of us has been impressed by Judge Alito's intellectual acumen and legal abilities. We admire not only his intellect but also his personality, including his sense of humor. We did not encounter a doctrinaire, result-oriented ideologue but rather a lawyer and judge open to argument and reason. In our experience—a collective experience that covers the course of his professional career—Judge Alito is not a person who shapes his decisions toward the pursuit of a political agenda. In particular, as a judge, we have found that he decides each case on its merits. While he is conservative by political affiliation—and is cautious by temperament—we do not believe that political ideology has driven his legal decision-making as a judge.

Confirming Samuel A. Alito, Jr., to the Supreme Court would allow an individual to be seated at the Court whose prior experience, intellectual abilities, and legal background make him extremely well qualified to sit on the highest Court in the land. The list of qualifications, in our view, includes his judicial temperament, his intellectual independence, and his deep allegiance to the rule of law. Based on our combined personal experience we heartily recommend his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Frank O. Bowman, III
Floyd R. Gibson Missouri Endowed Professor of Law,
University of Missouri – Columbia School of Law

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