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July 7, 2009

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Senator Patrick Leahy
 Chair, Judiciary Committee
 United States Senate
 Attention: Kristine Lucius
 433 Russell Senate Office Building
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

Re: U.S. Supreme Court Nominee Sonia Sotomayor

Dear Senator Leahy:

As President of the National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL), and on behalf of NAWL, I am pleased to announce to the Senate Judiciary Committee NAWL's conclusion that Judge Sonia Sotomayor is highly qualified to become an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The conclusion, based upon Judge Sotomayor's intellectual capacity, her appropriate judicial temperament and her respect for established law and process, has been reported today to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The NAWL Committee, which includes a distinguished array of law professors, appellate practitioners and lawyers, founded its conclusion upon (i) a comprehensive review of Judge Sotomayor's publicly available writings and decisions and (ii) in-depth personal interviews by Committee members with key individuals having information regarding Judge Sotomayor, the various roles she has fulfilled during the course of her professional life, and her treatment of litigants, attorneys, employees and colleagues, particularly those who are women. A copy of the Committee's Mission and Procedures and its previous statements about nominees to the United States Supreme Court is enclosed.

During the course of the assessment, the NAWL Committee reviewed a substantial number of opinions drafted by Judge Sotomayor, including majority opinions, concurrences, dissents and opinions she wrote or joined in that were reviewed by the United States Supreme Court. Although the Committee emphasized review of cases that might be of particular importance to women, the members of the Committee did not limit their review, focusing on a wide range of criminal and civil issues.

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The Committee concluded that Judge Sotomayor consistently has displayed a superior intellectual capacity and a comprehensive understanding of the issues with which she was presented. Her ability to analyze statutory and case law was found to be excellent and her judicial reasoning sound.

In certain areas involving issues of importance to women and within the scope of the NAWL Committee's review, such as domestic violence and reproductive choice, the Committee had no decisions of Judge Sotomayor to review. There were, however, many cases where the issues involved government-sponsored violence against women (arising in the asylum context) in which Judge Sotomayor displayed a sensitive understanding of the impact of forced sterilization and forced abortion on mothers and their partners. Similarly, Judge Sotomayor displayed great knowledge and understanding of the impact of gender and race-based comments and behavior in the workplace, although her sensitivity to the plight of the plaintiffs in these cases did not necessarily translate into findings favoring those individuals unless a solid basis in law existed on which to base their claims.

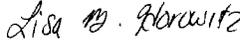
Judge Sotomayor's decisions and the information developed by the NAWL Committee demonstrate that while Judge Sotomayor is not afraid to disagree with her colleagues if her legal analysis leads her there, she has a strong preference for following judicial precedent. The information developed by the Committee also establishes her lack of gender, racial, ethnic or religious bias and her willingness to maintain an open mind, deciding cases on the record before her.

Importantly, the Committee found Judge Sotomayor's judicial temperament to be appropriate. She is generous in her explanations to *pro se* litigants while at the same time enforcing legal procedure and principles. She was found to have treated all litigants, attorneys, court personnel, and, in particular for the Committee's review, women in the courts, with the utmost respect and professionalism in and out of the courtroom.

The Committee, therefore, concluded that Judge Sotomayor has the intellectual capacity, the appropriate judicial temperament and respect for established law and process needed to be an effective Supreme Court Justice and is highly qualified to serve as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

The National Association of Women Lawyers is the leading national voluntary organization devoted to the interests of women lawyers and women's rights. Founded over 100 years ago, NAWL has members in all 50 states and engages in a variety of programs and activities to advance its mission. Members of the NAWL Committee for the Evaluation of Supreme Court Nominees are appointed by the President of NAWL and include a distinguished array of law professors, appellate practitioners and lawyers concentrating in litigation, with diverse backgrounds from around the country and who work in a variety of professional settings. The Committee independently reviews and evaluates the qualifications of each Presidential nominee to the United States Supreme Court with an emphasis on laws and decisions regarding women's rights or that have a special impact on women. More information may be found at www.nawl.org.

Very truly yours,



Lisa B. Horowitz

Enclosure

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS
COMMITTEE FOR THE EVALUATION OF
SUPREME COURT NOMINEES

MISSION OF THE COMMITTEE

The mission of the Committee is to review and evaluate the qualifications of each Presidential nominee to the United States Supreme Court with an emphasis on laws and decisions regarding women's rights or that have a special impact on women.

GOVERNANCE

The Committee is chaired by the President of NAWL or her designee. Members of the Committee are appointed by the President of NAWL and consist of lawyers who are diverse with respect to the nature of their practice and jurisdiction. The size of the Committee ranges from a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 18 lawyers. Committee members are appointed for a one-year term and may be reappointed up to a total of

three terms. All fact-finding and deliberations of the Committee are confidential to the Committee. A list of current Committee members as of June 2005 is provided in Appendix A.

PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATION AND EVALUATION

Each member of the Committee is expected to participate in the investigation and evaluation of a nominee. To advance the investigation process, the Committee Chair shall appoint a Coordination Subcommittee and a Readers Subcommittee and a chair of each Subcommittee. The Coordination Subcommittee shall consist only of Committee members. The Readers Subcommittee shall consist of Committee members and may also consist of non-members of the Committee.

Inquiry by both Subcommittees shall be focused on the issues set forth in Appendix B, below. Inquiry shall also be made into the nominee's history of treatment of women, including especially her/his female employees and colleagues.

The Readers Subcommittee shall review all available writings of the nominee and report to the Committee about its findings.

The Coordination Subcommittee shall take primary responsibility for (a) coordinating fact-finding about the nominee, which shall consist of a range of information, including personal interviews and available documentation relating to the nominee's history and life experiences, and (b) reporting the results of fact-finding to the full Committee.

Upon announcement of the nominee, the Coordination Subcommittee shall request from the White House and from the appropriate Senate office copies of the questionnaires completed by the nominee. The Coordination Committee also shall obtain all other information that the White House and Senate will provide about the nominee. The Coordination Subcommittee shall request from the nominee a signed and notarized Waiver of Confidentiality authorizing the Committee to ascertain from the appropriate disciplinary bodies whether the nominee has ever been the subject of professional complaint or discipline. The Coordination Subcommittee shall distribute copies of the questionnaires and all other information to members of the Committee. Members of the full Committee shall review these materials and identify, if any, particular areas of inquiry that require more detailed review.

The Coordination Subcommittee shall recommend individuals to be interviewed, either telephonically or in person, and assign members of the Committee to arrange for and conduct interviews. Interviewees may include references named on the nominee's questionnaires, members of the nominee's staff and her/his employees, attorneys who have worked with or opposed the nominee, clients of the nominee, and colleagues in bar and community groups who have worked with the nominee. Other potential interviewees may include lawyers, judges, or academics who have had dealings with the nominee; attorneys whose names appear in legal opinions either as adversaries to or co-counsel with the nominee; and counsel who have appeared before a nominee who is a sitting judge. In the case of a current or former judge, interviewees also may include attorneys who have appeared before the nominee in capacities other than as trial counsel, the judicial officer (if any) having supervisory responsibility over the nominee, and representatives from the relevant Public Defender's Office, Legal Aid Society and the U.S. Attorney's or District Attorney's office.

In each interview, every effort will be taken to obtain a fair and candid evaluation of the nominee and her/his qualifications for office. When conducting interviews, each Committee member shall assure the interviewee that her/his identity and specific responses will be kept confidential and not disclosed to the nominee or to anyone who is not a

member of the Committee.

No Committee member shall reveal to the nominee, or to any other person who is not a member of the Committee, comments made during the investigation. While the identity and comments of persons interviewed are otherwise kept confidential, they will be disclosed to the full Committee.

It is Committee policy not to consider anonymous remarks about a nominee. Accordingly, no such remarks shall be considered by the Committee in making its evaluation. The Committee may take account of anonymous remarks if it is able to confirm the accuracy of those remarks from other sources, including witnesses who are willing to be identified to the Committee.

The Coordination Subcommittee shall request a personal interview with the nominee. If possible, the interview shall be held face-to-face with the nominee in the nominee's office or other convenient setting. If possible, the interview shall take place after the Committee has completed the bulk of its investigation, so that any questions arising in the course of the fact-finding can be discussed with the nominee within the limitations of confidentiality. The Subcommittee or Committee shall make reasonable efforts to notify the nominee in advance of the interview of the nature of any

material negative information known to the Committee, and to obtain the nominee's comment about such information. If such negative information comes to light after the interview, the Committee shall endeavor to bring the matter to the attention of the nominee and invite her/his comment thereon.

CONCLUSIONS AND OVERALL EVALUATION

The Committee shall receive reports from the Coordination Subcommittee and the Readers Subcommittee. After review and deliberation, the Committee shall issue a summary evaluation ("Evaluation"), which will consist of a conclusion as to whether the nominee is well-qualified, qualified or not qualified, along with a brief statement of the bases for the Committee's Evaluation.

The Committee's Evaluation will be provided to the nominee, the President and the Senate Judiciary Committee; published on the NAWL website; and distributed to other appropriate persons.

**Appendix A:
Members of the Committee for Evaluation of Supreme Court Nominees
June 2009**

Name, Title	Professional Affiliation
Anita L. Allen, Henry R. Silverman Professor of Law and Professor of Philosophy	University of Pennsylvania Law School
Terri Austin, Chief Diversity Officer	American International Group, Inc.
Kali N. Bracey, Partner	Jenner & Block LLP
Kathleen Burch, Associate Professor	John Marshall Law School
Jane Leslie Dalton, Partner	Duane Morris LLP
Margaret B. Drew, Professor of Clinical Law	University of Cincinnati College of Law
Joanne A. Epps, Dean, Professor of Law (Co-Chair)	Temple University
Sharla J. Frost, Partner	Powers Frost
Kay Hodge, Partner	Stoneman, Chandler & Miller LLP
Beth L. Kaufman, Partner	Schoeman, Updike & Kaufman, LLP
Joanne Lichtman, Partner	Howrey LLP
Lorraine K. Koc, General Counsel	Deb Shops, Inc.
Prof. Deborah Malamud	New York University Law School
Patricia Lee Refo, Partner (Co-Chair)	Snell & Wilmer LLP
Virginia A. Seitz, Partner	Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP
Charna E. Sherman, Partner	Squire Sanders
Sara Turnipseed, Partner	Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP
Zachary Tripp, Associate	King & Spalding LLP

**Appendix B:
Issues for Review**

1. Women and the Workplace (such as sexual harassment, sex or gender discrimination, equal pay, pregnancy leave/maternity leave, family leave/dependent care).
2. Women and the Criminal Justice System (such as sentencing guidelines, domestic violence, sexual assault).
3. Women and Health Care (such as reproductive rights, health insurance, Medicare).
4. Women and Education (such as Title IX/athletics, sexual harassment, sex or gender discrimination).
5. Women and Family (such as adoption, marriage and divorce, child support/child custody, child care, unmarried couples).
6. Women in the Military (such as sexual harassment, sex or gender discrimination, equal pay/equal promotion, pregnancy leave/maternity leave, family leave/dependent care).
7. Women and Finance (such as social security, credit/bankruptcy, welfare/poverty/government benefits, tax).
8. Women and Retirement (such as savings and investments, estate planning, probate/inheritance).
9. Policies and Laws Impacting Multicultural Women.
10. Enforcement of Statutes regarding Women's Rights; Federal versus State Law Relief.