

September 27, 2017

The Honorable Chairman Chuck Grassley  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6275

The Honorable Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6275

RE: **Omaha Legal Community  
Support of Senate Confirmation of Steve Grasz  
to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit**

Senator Grassley and Senator Feinstein:

This letter is submitted on behalf of the current and numerous past Presidents of the Omaha Bar Association (OBA) in support of the confirmation of Mr. Steve Grasz, who was nominated on August 3, 2017 for a seat as Judge on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

One of the primary purposes of any bar association is to honor, respect, and promote equal justice under the law through its individual members. To that end, the Omaha legal community is proud of the many accomplishments of every lawyer who is a member of our legal community. Nebraska is fortunate to have several talented lawyers, and Omaha values the legal expertise of the lawyers practicing in its legal community.

Without hesitation, the Omaha legal community strongly supports confirmation and approval of Steve Grasz for a seat as a Judge on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Steve Grasz possesses the legal expertise, professionalism, character, and ethics that are demanded of a Judge on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Steve Grasz has earned the trust and respect from each of the current and former OBA leaders who voluntarily signed onto this letter. Each recognizes Steve Grasz as a lawyer who possesses the skill set required to analyze and address complex legal issues that would be presented to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The extensive legal experience that Steve Grasz gained during his tenure at the Nebraska Attorney General's Office, along with numerous years of practice as a partner in a large law firm can and should be put to use on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Steve's deep understanding of both substantive law and legal process gained through managing a plethora of cases will serve the public well.

Each person listed below has achieved a high degree of success and has served the Omaha legal community with distinction for many years in their own right. Accordingly, collectively we respectfully ask that the Judiciary Committee, and thereafter the United States Senate confirm the nomination of Steve Grasz as a Judge on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Respectfully,

*Anne Marie O'Brien*  
*John A. Menicucci, Jr.*  
*Douglas J. Law*  
*Stuart J. Dorman*  
*Craig F. Martin*  
*William J. Birkel*

*Thomas A. Grennan*  
*Michael G. Mullin*  
*Joseph K. Meusey*  
*J. Terry Macnamara*  
*Charles V. Sederstrom*

**James D. McFarland**  
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October 31, 2017

Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6275

RE: L. Steven Grasz, Esq. - Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Chairman Grassley:

It is my honor and privilege to send this letter of support for confirmation of Steve Grasz as a Judge on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. I urge your Committee to vote in favor of confirmation.

As a former Democratic State Senator from Nebraska, I first met Steve after my term in the Nebraska Legislature ended in 1990. I returned to private practice as an attorney and worked with Steve in cases involving disputes between my clients and the State of Nebraska represented by then Chief Deputy Attorney General Grasz. Although we were not able to resolve every dispute, I found Steve to be very professional and diligent in his representation of the State. He has the ability to see both sides of a case and make a reasoned judgment on each case.

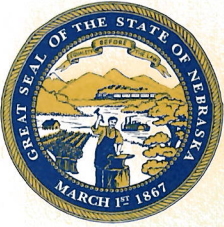
As you are most likely aware, Attorney Grasz certainly has the qualifications for serving as a Judge on the Eighth Circuit. His academic record at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and at the University of Nebraska College of Law is exemplary. As an undergraduate, Steve was a member of the prestigious Innocents Society recognized for their scholarship and service. In Law School, Steve was Executive Editor of the Nebraska Law Review. And of course, he has both experience as a government attorney and in private practice with an excellent law firm. He has practiced before our Nebraska Supreme Court and in the Federal Courts as well.

I am confident that Attorney Grasz has the judicial temperament and integrity to be a distinguished Judge on the Eighth Circuit. I believe he will follow and apply our Constitution and Laws as written to the facts of each case fairly and judiciously. I strongly recommend your confirmation of Attorney Grasz as a Judge on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sincerely,

James D. McFarland





**Pete Ricketts**  
Governor

## STATE OF NEBRASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
P.O. Box 94848 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848  
Phone: (402) 471-2244 • [pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov](mailto:pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov)

October 6, 2017

Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We write to strongly urge your confirmation of Steve Grasz of Omaha, Nebraska to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

During his service to the State of Nebraska in the Attorney General's Office and his years in private practice, Steve has become a leading expert on state and federal constitutional law. His demeanor and temperament have earned the respect of Nebraskans across the political spectrum in our state.

Steve brings valuable service to the bench. His appellate practice has regularly brought him before state courts as well as the Eighth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court.

On the bench, we know Steve will work tirelessly to uphold the U.S. Constitution. He understands that appropriate role of the judiciary is to apply the law as written and not to issue new policy from the bench. He will honor the separation of powers and work to uphold the rule of law.

Your swift confirmation of Steve will elevate an outstanding legal mind to the bench who will serve the Eighth Circuit and the people of our country honorably for years to come.

Sincerely,

Pete Ricketts  
Governor

John Gale  
Secretary of State

Charlie Janssen  
State Auditor

Mike Foley  
Lt. Governor

Don Stenberg  
State Treasurer

Doug Peterson  
Attorney General





STATE OF NEBRASKA  
**Office of the Attorney General**

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**DOUGLAS J. PETERSON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

September 19, 2017

Chairman Chuck Grassley  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6275

Senate Judiciary Committee:

Steve Grasz served for twelve years as the Chief Deputy Attorney General for the Nebraska Department of Justice under Attorney General Don Stenberg. As Office Manager for those twelve years, I worked primarily with Mr. Grasz regarding the administration of the agency and observed first-hand his impressive leadership style and quality of character.

It was truly an honor and a pleasure to work for someone as principled as Steve Grasz. His leadership, integrity and strength of character are above reproach. On a continual basis, Steve treated the staff with the highest level of respect, which was encouraging to everyone and developed a sense of confidence and optimism in our office. He always conducted business with the level of fairness and evenhandedness needed to manage such a multifaceted agency. Steve also possessed the judgement and wisdom necessary to solve the difficult issues and complex problems presented to him daily in the Attorney General's Office. He would consider all aspects of an issue justly and with integrity, inspiring respect and appreciation.

Steve contributed twelve honorable years in public service to the State of Nebraska and led the Department of Justice to a new level of excellence. It is, therefore, with great conviction, that I strongly support the nomination of Steve Grasz to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Respectfully,

Dana Hoffman, Director of Operations  
Attorney General Doug Peterson



City of Omaha  
Jean Stothert, Mayor

September 19, 2017

**Law Department**

Omaha/Douglas Civic Center  
1819 Farnam Street, Suite 804  
Omaha, Nebraska 68183-0804  
(402) 444-5115  
FAX: (402) 444-5125

**Paul D. Kratz**  
City Attorney

**VIA E-MAIL:**

mike\_davis@judiciary-rep.senate.gov  
Chairman Chuck Grassley  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6275

paige\_herwig@judiciary-dem.senate.gov  
Ranking Member Diane Feinstein  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6275

Re: Steve Grasz

The Honorable Mr. Grassley and Ms. Feinstein:

The purpose of this letter is to support the nomination of Steve Grasz for the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. I worked on cases both for and against Steve in both the private sector and in my position as City Attorney for the City of Omaha. I have known Steve for over 25 years, and I think I have a good understanding of his qualifications.

I believe that Steve is one of, if not the best, attorney in Omaha for legal analysis and writing. His arguments are always very well thought out and thoroughly researched. In addition, his logic is clear which produces compelling arguments. On several of our cases, he has presented constitutional arguments that reflected a thorough understanding of the U.S. Constitution.

As long as I have known Steve, he has always been low key with a temperament perfect for a judge. Finally, he is one of the most ethical attorneys in this city.

I highly recommend the nomination of Steve Grasz for a seat on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to approve his nomination.

Very truly yours,

Paul D. Kratz  
Omaha City Attorney

PDK:dlm

September 28, 2017

Chairman Chuck Grassley  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6275  
[nominations@judiciary-rep.senate.gov](mailto:nominations@judiciary-rep.senate.gov)


Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6275  
[paige\\_herwig@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:paige_herwig@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)

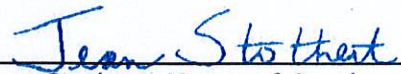
Re: Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals Nominee Steve Grasz

Dear Senators Grassley and Feinstein:

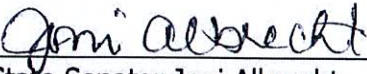
As current and former women leaders of Nebraska, we are writing with our strong endorsement and support for the confirmation of Steve Grasz to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

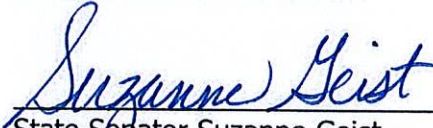
We commend Senator Deb Fischer and Senator Ben Sasse on their important role in selecting such a highly qualified nominee with unquestioned integrity and a steadfast commitment to constitutional governance that respects the separation of powers, the rule of law, and the independence of the judiciary. Mr. Grasz has a reputation in our state for sound legal scholarship and judgment and for outstanding appellate advocacy. All who know him attest to the fact his temperament is well suited to serve with impartiality and fairness within the framework of the governing laws and precedent. We urge the Committee's favorable vote on this nomination, and we look forward to the confirmation of Mr. Grasz by the full Senate.


  
Hon. Kay Orr, former Nebraska Governor

 10/2/17  
Jean Stothert, Mayor of Omaha

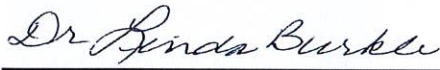



  
State Senator Joni Albrecht

  
State Senator Suzanne Geist

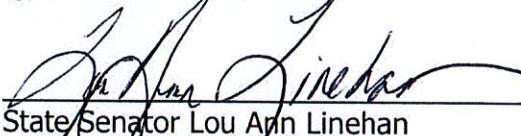
  
Rita Sanders, Mayor of Bellevue

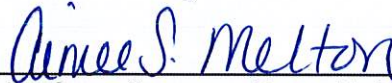
  
Lincoln Councilwoman Cyndi Lamm

  
Linda Burkle, Salvation Army

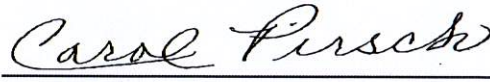
  
Lynn Rex, Executive Director,  
Nebraska League of Municipalities

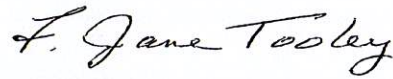
  
State Senator Lydia Brasch

  
State Senator Lou Ann Linehan

  
Omaha Councilwoman Aimee Melton

  
Colleen Paden, former Mayor of Stanton

  
Carol Pirsch, former State Senator

  
Jane Tooley, former Deputy Sheriff of  
Butler County and former State  
Trooper





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	GRAND RAPIDS, MI	MINNEAPOLIS, MN	

\*through an affiliation with Jackson Lewis P.C., a Law Corporation

September 29, 2017

**SENT VIA E-MAIL**

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6275  
c/o [nominations@judiciary-rep.senate.gov](mailto:nominations@judiciary-rep.senate.gov)

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6275  
c/o [paige\\_herwig@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:paige_herwig@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)

Re: Steve Grasz Nomination

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Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I have been a member of the Nebraska Bar for twenty-one years, and I have been admitted to practice before the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals since 2002. I write regarding the nomination of Steve Grasz for a seat on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. I respectfully and strongly urge you to support his nomination.

I worked directly with Steve Grasz for more than twelve years, and always found him to act with the highest standards of integrity and judgment. Steve is thoughtful, smart, and very calm under pressure. I worked with Steve for over twelve years, and always found him to act with the highest standards of integrity and judgment. He always had a kind word for those who worked with him, and he is well regarded by everyone who knows him. His legal opinion on matters of significance was highly valued within our firm, by our clients, and by others in the legal community as a whole. I have no doubt that he would serve very well in this position.



Thank you for considering this letter.

Respectfully submitted,

JACKSON LEWIS P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michaelle L. Baumert", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michaelle L. Baumert

MLB/cfm

# Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR RICK KOLOWSKI

District 31  
4815 South 158 Circle  
Omaha, Nebraska 68135  
(402) 896-1765

Legislative Address:  
State Capitol  
PO Box 94604  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604  
(402) 471-2327  
rkolowski@leg.ne.gov



## COMMITTEES

Vice Chairperson - Education  
Natural Resources  
Nebraska Retirement Systems

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
United State Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

I am writing this letter in support of President Trump's nomination of Steve Grasz for a seat on the Eight Circuit Court of Appeals. Steve is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law where he was Executive Editor of the *Nebraska Law Review*. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture also from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

I have personally had the opportunity to work with Steve, both when I was Chair of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, and during my time as a State Senator. I have relied upon Steve's legal ability and found him to be of the highest reasoning and legal ability. His knowledge and statutory interpretation has been invaluable to me in the highly complex and challenging area of natural resources and water law.

I strongly believe that he would be an asset to the Federal Judiciary as a Judge on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. He has the knowledge, temperament, and legal ability to be an outstanding member of the court.

I can, without hesitation, give Steve Grasz my highest personal and professional recommendation for your consideration. I have every assurance that he would be a strong and fair member of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Thank you for your consideration of his appointment and I urge you and your committee to advance with a positive recommendation for Steve Grasz to a full vote of the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Kolowski".

Senator Rick Kolowski  
District 31

CC: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee