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Personal Classroom Account from a Law Student of Judge Gorsuch

1 message

Jordan Christine Henry <Jordan.Henry@colorado.edu>

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Reply-To: Jordan.Henry@colorado.edu

To: Ted_Lehman@judiciary-rep.senate.gov, Paige_Herwig@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

My name is Jordan Henry. I am a student at University of Colorado Law School, Class of 2018. I took Judge Gorsuch's ethics class during the fall of 2016. I have reviewed the allegations made in Jennifer Sisk's letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee and write to express my view that they in no way reflect my experience with Judge Gorsuch as a professor and a mentor. To the contrary, I have found him to take mentorship of all his students – women and men – very seriously. He spent a lot of time discussing issues we may encounter as lawyers, but he also requested personal accounts from students to humanize the potential challenges that we are likely to face in the profession.

I recall a day in class that was devoted to diversity and some of the issues that face women and others in the profession. The textbook noted that there is a lot of attrition among women lawyers. Judge Gorsuch encouraged discussion on this point and asked students to share their experiences. I shared an experience where I was asked about family planning in a job interview and the overriding concern seemed to be whether I would need maternity leave. Judge Gorsuch thanked me for sharing my experience and used it to demonstrate that gender inequality in the profession was not just theoretical, but something that may occur to the classmate sitting next to us. He prepared us to confront these issues when they arise.

That was the way Judge Gorsuch taught. He encouraged students to share their experiences so that the entire class could learn from them and learn from the differing perspectives we had. He was always respectful of all student's points of view and made sure they were all discussed. If Judge Gorsuch had personal beliefs on the subject, they were not displayed to the class. He encouraged free discussion and we all benefited from it.

Sincerely,

Jordan

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