

Hon. Orrin G. Hatch
Ranking Minority Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

We enthusiastically support the nomination of Michael W. McConnell to be a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

McConnell is one of America's most distinguished constitutional law scholars and one of its most distinguished lawyers. He has published more than fifty scholarly articles in the nation's leading law reviews and has argued eleven cases before the United States Supreme Court. He is currently Presidential Professor at the University of Utah College of Law and was formerly a professor for twelve years at the University of Chicago Law School. He was a law clerk to Judge J. Skelly Wright of the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and to Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. of the United States Supreme Court. He served as Assistant General Counsel of the Office of Management and Budget and as Assistant Solicitor General.

McConnell's scholarly work has been path-breaking and influential. It also has been characterized by care, thoroughness, and fairness to opposing viewpoints. Both in person and in his writings, McConnell exhibits respect, gentleness, concern, rigor, integrity, a willingness to listen and to consider, and an abiding commitment to fairness and the rule of law. He provides a model of the wisdom, intelligence, temperament, craftsmanship, and personal qualities that can make a judge outstanding.

Many of the signers of this letter are Democrats who did not vote for the President who nominated Professor McConnell. Some of us have disagreed with McConnell on constitutional issues and undoubtedly will disagree with him again. All of us, however, hope that the Senate will confirm Professor McConnell without greater delay than is necessary to fulfill its important Constitutional responsibilities. In our view, Michael McConnell is a nominee of exceptional merit whose confirmation warrants bipartisan support.

We list our institutional affiliations for purposes of identification only.

Sincerely yours,

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