

April 2, 2018

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Re: Nomination of Mark J. Bennett to be a United States Circuit Judge for the
Ninth Circuit

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

We, the attorneys and support staff of the Hawaii Department of the Attorney General, write in strong support of Mark J. Bennett's nomination as a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.¹ Mr. Bennett will be an ideal judge, not solely because he is brilliant, but because he will be prepared, will attentively listen and consider all arguments, and will give all parties their true day in court.

We were privileged to work with Mr. Bennett while he served as Hawaii's Attorney General from 2003-2010. From the start, we recognized that he relished the opportunity to take his career in a different path, to provide public service in his work for the people of Hawaii. As Attorney General, Mr. Bennett managed the largest law firm in the state efficiently and effectively. The Department is responsible for advising all three branches of government on the legal implications, risks, and responsibilities relating to broad-ranging topics such as procurement, retirement benefits, finance, commerce and consumer affairs, criminal prosecution, Medicaid enforcement, antitrust, employment and labor, health and human services, education, land use, child and family support and services, transportation functions, tax and charities, civil rights, and complex and tort litigation. Mr. Bennett thrived on the challenge. We witnessed first-hand his keen ability to

¹ We support Mark in our individual, personal capacities and not on behalf of the Hawaii Department of the Attorney General.

evaluate complex matters and immediately identify critical issues, to decisively yet fairly resolve conflicts and problems, and to masterfully juggle multiple responsibilities without allowing any one issue to suffer – all of this while following the highest of ethical standards. Mr. Bennett raised the bar for the Department, challenged us and led by example.

But Mr. Bennett not only provided us with the model, he also willingly shared his knowledge and abilities and served as a patient and generous mentor. He collaborated with and provided valuable support, and even got down in the trenches and personally litigated cases. Under his leadership and tutelage, we became better lawyers and government servants.

We wholeheartedly believe that Mr. Bennett, as he was for our Department, will be a valued addition to the Court. We strongly urge his confirmation.

Sincerely,

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