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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Letter	[Recommendation Letter - page 1] - To: Jeff Sessions - From: Lynda Woodall	1	05/10/2003	P6/b6;
002	Letter	[Recommendation Letter] - To: Jeff Sessions - From: Bill Taylor	1	03/26/2003	P6/b6;
003	Letter	Bill Pryor, Nominee to 11th Circuit of Alabama - To: Orrin Hatch - From: Herc Levine	1	06/05/2003	P6/b6;
004	Letter	[Recommendation Letter] - To: Jeff Sessions - From: Allan Wade	1	03/25/2003	P6/b6;

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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PEYOR

JUDGE WILLIAM H. PRYOR JR.
NOMINEE TO U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

Biographical Information

- Served as Attorney General of Alabama from 1997-2002.
- Clerked for Judge John Minor Wisdom of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.
- Has served with distinction for over a year on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.
- Strongly supported by Democrats, including Joe Reed (Chairman, Alabama Democratic Conference), Chris McNair (former Alabama State Representative), William Baxley (former Attorney General of Alabama), The Honorable Sue Bell Cobb (Judge, Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals).

Controversial Issues

- Interest groups have claimed that Judge Pryor's personal pro-life views impact his ability to follow precedent as a judge.
- Interest groups have criticized Judge Pryor for relying on the Eleventh Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, under the doctrine of sovereign immunity to protect taxpayers in Alabama from huge money judgments.
- Some have charged that Judge Pryor called for modification of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act and is therefore against civil rights.
- Some groups have criticized Judge Pryor for defending Alabama's law against sodomy in *Lawrence v. Texas*.

Responses

- After the Supreme Court's decision in *Stenberg v. Carhart*, Judge Pryor issued an Attorney General opinion to state prosecutors stating that Alabama's partial birth abortion law was unconstitutional and could not be enforced.
- Judge Pryor's Eleventh Amendment arguments were well within the mainstream of American law. As noted throughout his nomination hearing, his arguments have frequently been accepted by the U.S. Supreme Court and held to represent the correct interpretation of the U.S. Constitution. As well, numerous democratic Attorneys General have asserted the same position as Judge Pryor, including William Sorrell (VT) and Jim Doyle (WI).
- The modifications of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Acts were procedural in nature. Judge Pryor's record demonstrates his commitment to full and equal rights for all. He successfully defended several redistricting plans adopted by the Alabama Legislature that were challenged by white voters and members of his own political party. In 2000, he won a unanimous ruling from the Supreme Court of the United States that prevented white voters from challenging majority black legislative districts in which the white voters did not reside.
- As Attorney General, he had a duty to defend the laws of Alabama against constitutional attack. Judge Pryor filed a brief in the case because if the Supreme Court struck down the Texas law in a broad manner, Alabama's law would also be invalid. As Attorney General, he immediately acted to comply with the Court's decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*.

He issued a release stating that, "The Court today expressly overruled its 1986 decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick*. This new interpretation of the Constitution means that the law of Alabama...which prohibits consensual sodomy between unmarried persons, is now unenforceable."

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JUDGE WILLIAM H. PRYOR JR.
Nominee to U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit (Alabama)

- Judge Bill Pryor has earned a reputation as one of America's most experienced and distinguished public servants. His nomination has received overwhelming support from across the ideological and political spectrum. Judge Pryor has been nominated to the Eleventh Circuit, which covers the states of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia.
- Judge Pryor has had a distinguished career as a public servant, practicing attorney, and law professor.
 - Judge Pryor was recess appointed by the President on February 20, 2004 to the Eleventh Circuit to fill a vacancy that is designated a "judicial emergency" by the Judicial Conference of the United States. He has served with distinction for over a year.
 - Judge Pryor was appointed as Attorney General of Alabama on January 2, 1997. After being elected to a full four-year term in 1998, Alabamians overwhelmingly reelected Judge Pryor as Attorney General in 2002. He had previously served as Deputy Attorney General in charge of special civil and constitutional litigation.
 - Before joining the Attorney General's Office, Judge Pryor practiced law in Birmingham, Alabama at two of the state's finest law firms, specializing in commercial and complex federal litigation. He also taught several years as an adjunct professor at the Cumberland School of Law of Samford University.
- Judge Pryor is an outstanding and highly qualified candidate as evidenced by his professional and academic credentials and training.
 - Judge Pryor began his legal career as a law clerk for a civil rights legend, the late Judge John Minor Wisdom of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Judge Wisdom achieved renown for his landmark decisions ordering and implementing desegregation in the wake of the Supreme Court's historic ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* and received the American Bar Association Medal, the ABA's highest honor, in 1996.
 - Judge Pryor attended Tulane University School of Law, where he graduated *magna cum laude* in 1987 and was editor-in-chief of the *Tulane Law Review*.

- Judge Pryor's impressive record demonstrates his belief in the rule of law and treating all people equally under the law. As Judge Pryor stated at his hearing, "I understand my obligation to follow the law, and I have a record of doing it. You don't just have to take my word that I will follow the law. You can look at my record as Attorney General and see where I have done it."
 - Judge Pryor ordered state prosecutors to interpret the Alabama Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act narrowly and consistent with Supreme Court precedent even though the plain language of the statute permitted broader application.
 - Judge Pryor has done his duty as Attorney General to defend Alabama statutes from attack and defend Alabama taxpayers from huge money judgments.
 - Judge Pryor has been praised by a broad range of Alabama African-American leaders for his record of fighting for civil rights and equal treatment under law for all.
 - Judge Pryor has advocated for a variety of new laws to protect women from domestic violence and helped create innovative new programs to help women.
 - Judge Pryor helped start Mentor Alabama, a program helping at-risk children.
 - Judge Pryor, while Attorney General, represented the State and personally prosecuted charges against then-Chief Justice Roy Moore that ultimately led to Justice Moore's removal from office for defiance of federal court orders.
- Judge Pryor has served with distinction for over a year on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. He has authored numerous three-judge panel decisions joined by judges appointed by both Democratic and Republican Presidents. Senator Specter has noted that "several opinions . . . demonstrate Judge Pryor's willingness to protect the rights of individuals often overlooked in the legal system."
 - Judge Pryor reversed a district court decision and ruled that a prisoner suffering from HIV and hepatitis could pursue a constitutional claim alleging inappropriate medical treatment by prison officials. Judge Pryor also held that the Prison Litigation Reform Act did not preclude the prisoner from amending his complaint and proceeding *in forma pauperis*. *Brown v. Johnson*, 387 F.3d 1344 (11th Cir. 2004).
 - Judge Pryor reinstated a civil rights claim dismissed by a district court where the district court did not place appropriate weight on the discriminatory conduct alleged by a female employee. *Wilson v. B/E Aerospace, Inc.*, 376 F.3d 1079 (11th Cir. 2004).

- Judge Pryor ruled that Congress did not exceed its power under the Spending Clause in enacting the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA). This ruling permitted a prisoner to pursue a claim that prison officials did not permit him to practice his Jewish faith. *Benning v. Georgia*, 391 F.3d 1299 (11th Cir. 2004).

- Judge Pryor has widespread support from across the ideological and political spectrum.
 - Dr. Joe Reed, Chairman of the Alabama Democratic Conference and a member of the Democratic National Committee, calls Judge Pryor a “first-class public official” who “will be a credit to the [j]udiciary and will be a guardian for justice.”

 - Thurbert Baker, the Democratic Attorney General of Georgia, says that Judge Pryor “has always done what he thought was best for the people of Alabama” and “know[s] that [Pryor’s] work on the bench will continue to serve as an example of how the public trust should be upheld.”

 - Democratic state legislator Rep. Alvin Holmes “request[s] [the Senate’s] swift confirmation of [Judge] Pryor . . . because of his constant efforts to help the causes of blacks in Alabama.”

 - U.S. Rep. Artur Davis (D-AL) stated “I have the utmost respect for my friend [Judge] Pryor and I believe if he is selected, Alabama will be proud of his service.”

STATEMENTS BY SELECT SUPPORTERS OF JUDGE PRYOR

The Honorable Alvin Holmes, Alabama State Representative, Montgomery, AL

"I am a black member of the Alabama House of Representatives having served for 28 years. During my time of service in the Alabama House of Representatives I have led most of the fights for civil rights of blacks, women, lesbians and gays and other minorities. . . . [A]s one of the key civil rights leaders in Alabama who has participated in basically every major civil rights demonstration in America, who has been arrested for civil rights causes on many occasions, as one who was a field staff member of Dr. Martin Luther King's SCLC, as one who has been brutally beaten by vicious police officers for participating in civil rights marches and demonstrations, as one who has had crosses burned in his front yard by the KKK and other hate groups, as one who has lived under constant threats day in and day out because of his stand fighting for the rights of blacks and other minorities, I request your swift confirmation of Bill Pryor to the 11th Circuit because of his constant efforts to help the causes of blacks in Alabama." (June 5, 2003)

The Honorable Thurbert E. Baker, Attorney General of Georgia, Atlanta, GA

"I have had the great pleasure of knowing and working with Bill Pryor over the past five years. Through the National Association of Attorneys General, Bill and I have worked together on matters of mutual concern to Georgia and Alabama. . . . During his tenure as Attorney General, Bill has made combating white-collar crime and public corruption one of the centerpieces of his service to the people of Alabama. He joined the effort of Attorneys General around the country in fighting the rising tide of identity theft, pushing through legislation in the Alabama legislature making identity theft a felony in Alabama. . . . He has always done what he thought was best for the people of Alabama. Recognizing a wrong that had gone on far too long, he took the opportunity of his inaugural address to call on an end to the ban on inter-racial marriages in Alabama law. Concerned about at-risk kids in Alabama schools, he formed Mentor Alabama, a program designed to pair volunteer mentors with students who needed a role model and an attentive ear to the problems facing them on a daily basis." (March 31, 2003)

The Honorable Artur Davis, Representative, 7th District of Alabama, Birmingham, AL

"I understand that the President may be considering Attorney General Bill Pryor for a seat on the Eleventh Circuit. I have the utmost respect for my friend Attorney General Pryor and I believe if he is selected, Alabama will be proud of his service." (January 10, 2003)

The Honorable Charlie Crist, Attorney General of Florida, Tallahassee, FL

"General Pryor is well qualified for such a position as he has had a distinguished career as a public servant, practicing attorney, and law professor. . . . General Pryor began his legal career as a law clerk for the late Judge John Minor Wisdom of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, who is renown for his landmark decision ordering and implementing desegregation. . . .

Attorney General Pryor's professional experience gives him the necessary qualification to meet the demands of the bench with honesty and uprightness, often resisting pressure from his own party in the process. He would be a valuable asset to the 11th Circuit, and I am pleased to strongly recommend him for your consideration." (April 15, 2003)

Chris McNair, Former Alabama State Representative, Birmingham, AL

"I am writing to voice my support of Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. . . . I should advise you that I am a life long Democrat [and] one of the first African-Americans elected to the Alabama House of Representatives My daughter Denise was one of the four young girls killed in the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church and the fulfillment of Dr. King's dream of equal rights and justice for all has been my personal crusade. . . . By designating the prosecutors [in the 16th St. bombing case] as Special Assistant Attorney Generals and by providing financial assistance through his office, he demonstrated a commitment to justice that had been long overdue. . . . I have always found [General Pryor] to be a man of honesty and integrity who attempts to follow all laws faithfully and fully. . . . In sum, I believe Bill Pryor to be a man who is committed to following the rule of law regardless of the outcome and that he is personally committed to insuring that all people receive equal justice." (June 9, 2003)

William J. Baxley, Baxley, Dillard, Dauphin, and McKnight, and Former Attorney General of Alabama, Birmingham, AL

"I too am a former Attorney General of our great state. I therefore feel comfortable assessing Bill Pryor's service in that elected office, as well as his fitness to serve the United States as a Circuit Judge. As a Democrat, I am certain I have a more unbiased frame of reference than many. As a lawyer with a diverse practice in Alabama – one which has seen me aligned with him on some occasions and against him on others – I have a better basis than most for gauging his character, fitness and ability. . . . In this regard, his willingness to be guided by pure interpretations of the law superbly qualifies him for the federal bench. He has never, to my knowledge, bowed to any pressure from constituents or special interest groups. In every difficult decision he has made, his actions were supported by his interpretation of the law, without race, gender, age, political power, wealth, community standing, or any other competing interest affecting his judgment. . . . I often disagree, politically, with Bill Pryor. This does not prevent me from making this recommendation because we need fair minded, intelligent, industrious men and women, possessed of impeccable integrity, on the Eleventh Circuit. Bill Pryor has these qualities in abundance. . . . There is no better choice for this vacancy." (April 8, 2003)

The Honorable Sue Bell Cobb, Judge, Ala. Court of Criminal Appeals, Montgomery, AL

"I write, not only as the only statewide Democrat to be elected in 2000, not only as a member of the Court which reviews the greatest portion of General Pryor's work, but also as a child advocate who has labored shoulder to shoulder with General Pryor in the political arena on behalf of Alabama's children. . . . Bill Pryor is an outstanding attorney general and is one of the most righteous elected officials in this state. He possesses two of the most important attributes of a judge: unquestionable integrity and a strong internal moral compass. . . . Bill Pryor is

exceedingly bright, and a lawyer's lawyer. He is as dedicated to the 'Rule of Law' as anyone I know. I have never known another attorney general who loved being the 'people's lawyer' more than Bill Pryor. Though we may disagree on an issue, I am always confident that his position is the product of complete intellectual honesty. He loves the mental challenge presented by a complex case, yet he never fails to remember that each case impacts people's lives." (January 21, 2003)

Dr. Joe Reed, Chairman, Alabama Democratic Conference, Montgomery, AL

"[Pryor] is a person, in my opinion, who will uphold the law without fear or favor. I believe all races and colors will get a fair shake when their cases come before him. As Attorney General for Alabama during the past six (6) years, he has been fair to all people. . . . For your information, I am a member of the Democratic National Committee and, of course, Mr. Pryor is Republican, but these are only party labels. I am persuaded that in Mr. Pryor's eyes, Justice has only one label - Justice!" (January 27, 2003)

G. Douglas Jones, Whatley Drake, Former U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Alabama, Birmingham, AL

"I am writing now, as a loyal Democrat, to support the nomination of Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. Bill Pryor became Alabama's Attorney General less than a year before I was sworn in as U.S. Attorney. In short order we not only formed a strong friendship, but a federal-state working partnership that I believe was second to none. . . . His personal involvement in our joint efforts was critical to the success that was realized, including the success in the [1963 16th Street Baptist] church bombing cases. . . . Despite our differences, . . . there is no question that Bill Pryor is [e]minently qualified for the federal bench. He is a brilliant lawyer whose career has been marked by fundamental fairness and an appreciation for the rule of law. He has a solid reputation for honesty and integrity that greatly contributed to his overwhelming re-election by the people [of] Alabama. I believe you will find that Bill Pryor is held in high regard by people on both sides of the political aisle and by people of all races and gender. He has provided outstanding public service to the people of Alabama and there is no doubt he will serve with even greater distinction as a federal jurist. . . . I have pledged to assist in Bill's nomination and confirmation process in any way I can." (January 31, 2003)

Kathryn Coumanis, Executive Director, Penelope House Family Violence Center, Mobile, AL

"I mentioned, to my Board at our regular meeting last Thursday, that I would be sending this letter. The entire Board of Directors of Penelope House Family Violence Center here in Mobile, AL, unanimously asked that I include them in support of this nomination. Attorney General Bill Pryor has been a long time supporter and advocate of Penelope House, and has worked tirelessly to protect women and children from the dangers of domestic violence. . . . When Bill Pryor raises his voice in support of our mission, it enables us to reach every member of our community. Attorney General Pryor not only joins us every October in celebration of domestic violence awareness month, but enables us to reach a State wide audience at every opportunity. Three

years ago he reached and touched the hearts of thousands of Alabamians when he placed a drawing by one of our shelter children on the cover of his Christmas card. Attorney General Pryor is ever vigilant regarding any funding which may become available to our programs and keeps us informed about these sources. He always supports our efforts to obtain grants, and follows and supports legislation which may be of concern to the domestic violence programs throughout our state. Bill Pryor will bring to the Federal Bench the qualities that all Americans cherish. He is loyal to his State and his Country, is a man of princip[le] and integrity, is highly intelligent, and most of all is a man who has immense compassion and respect for his fellow human beings." (March 17, 2003)

Dianne Mooney, Allocations Chair, The Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

"During his illustrious career General Pryor has demonstrated his compassion for the citizens of Alabama in countless ways. Of special importance to those of us who serve on the Board of Directors of The Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham has been his focus on the plight of victims of domestic violence. You may know that in 2001 General Pryor awarded Nine West Inc. settlement money to The Women's Fund to create and implement a meaningful program to combat domestic violence in Alabama. Those of us on the board went to work to maximize our AG's investment by creating CUT IT OUT Salons Against Domestic Violence that is now operating in its second year in Alabama and will be launched nationwide later this year through a professional business partnership. I sincerely hope that you will confirm General Pryor's nomination. He is more than fair and judicious and treats issues on women and minorities with great care and respect. And from a more personal standpoint, I celebrate his vision and personal courage to trust and empower others to positively impact our community and our state." (March 27, 2003)

Charles W. Colson, Founder, Prison Fellowship Ministries

"I have great admiration for Bill and support his nomination with enthusiasm. I observed Bill during his years as Attorney General of Alabama and was quite impressed. He has a firm grasp of the law, and is an articulate and forceful advocate. He used his office to speak out for reform in prison sentencing and was an ardent supporter of the Kennedy-Sessions Prison Rape Reduction Act. He also was instrumental in the passage of Alabama's Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which guarantees religious freedom for all, including prisoners. . . . While Bill is a forceful advocate, he also believes in the rule of law. When the debate ceases, Bill defends the law as it is written by the legislature or a higher court. Bill has a brilliant mind and the proper temperament for service on the Court of Appeals." (April 1, 2003)

Herc Levine, Birmingham, AL

"While I doubt that [certain] groups have taken the time to sit down and talk with Attorney General Pryor, I am proud to say that he has my support and the support of many in the Alabama Jewish Community because of his personal integrity and commitment to insure that all of our citizens are treated fairly and receive equal justice under the law. He has been a true friend to the Alabama Jewish Community on many important issues. . . . He has a well deserved reputation

for fairness and competency that cuts across party lines and which has resulted in overwhelming support from Alabamians of all political parties and segments of our society. His distinguished record as Attorney General affirms my belief that he will serve with great distinction as a Federal judge." (June 5, 2003)

Pat Nolan, President, Justice Fellowship

"Bill has shown knowledge of the law, brilliance, courage and compassion. In particular, he has forcefully spoken of the need to protect prisoners from rape, and has been effective in rallying support for the Kennedy-Sessions Prison Rape Reduction Act. . . . Bill speaks forcefully and with clarity on the important issues of the day. That is one of the things that make him such an exceptional leader. However, he reveres the rule of law, and has always subordinated his own opinions when the legislative or judicial authorities have ruled on the law." (April 1, 2003)

David G. Wirtes, Jr., Cunningham, Bounds, Yance, Crowder & Brown, L.L.C., Mobile, AL (for the firm)

"We [in the firm] are each lifelong Democrats who have substantially contributed to Democratic candidates and support Democratic principles and ideals. While we have some political differences with Attorney General Pryor, we believe that those political differences are far overshadowed by his excellent judicial qualifications and professional attributes. . . . We can confidently assure you and the members of the Judiciary Committee that Attorney General Pryor has always followed the law, whether it was to his liking or not. In other words, we have seen no evidence that Attorney General Pryor would use his position as an appellate jurist to legislate from the bench." (June 5, 2003)

Jere L. Beasley, Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C.

"I have known Bill since he worked for [Senator Sessions] in the Attorney General's office and I believe that he has all of the necessary qualifications to do an outstanding job on the federal bench. I am writing to support his nomination. The Attorney General and I come from different political parties and have disagreed on a number of issues. However, I have tremendous respect for him and sincerely believe that he has served the state well as Attorney General. I would have done some things differently, but that alone does not keep me from supporting him now. Bill Pryor is extremely bright and is a recognized student of the law. His character is beyond reproach and, in my opinion, he will be fair and judicious if he is nominated and confirmed by the Senate." (March 25, 2003)

JUDGE WILLIAM H. PRYOR JR.
Responses to Issues Raised by Opponents

ISSUE:

Some interest groups have claimed that Judge Pryor's personal pro-life views impact his ability to follow precedent as a judge.

RESPONSES:

That is wrong as demonstrated by his record. Indeed, as Attorney General, Judge Pryor took steps to ensure that Alabama law comported with Supreme Court precedent, without regard to his personal policy preferences.

- In 1997, the Alabama legislature passed the Alabama Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 1997. The statute's plain language banned such abortions both before and after the fetus was viable, which was not consistent with Supreme Court precedent. See ALA. CODE §§ 26-23-1 to 26-23-6 (1997).
- Despite pressure from some to interpret and enforce the Act as broadly as possible, as Attorney General he ordered state prosecutors to read the Supreme Court's viability requirement into the Act so as to comport with Supreme Court precedent.
- As Attorney General he also made clear that he would punish those who make terrorist threats to frighten health workers, including those at abortion clinics.
- Judge Pryor testified at his hearing that his personal pro-life views would not prevent him from following Supreme Court precedent.
- After the Supreme Court's decision in *Stenberg v. Carhart*, he issued an Attorney General opinion to state prosecutors stating that Alabama's partial birth abortion law was unconstitutional and could not be enforced.

ISSUE:

Some groups have criticized Judge Pryor for relying, while Attorney General, on the Eleventh Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, under the doctrine of sovereign immunity or "federalism," to protect taxpayers in Alabama from huge money judgments.

RESPONSES:

- The Eleventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, under the doctrine of sovereign immunity, bars suits against a state for damages that must be paid from the public fisc absent a sufficient congressional showing under the Fourteenth Amendment. The Supreme Court's recent cases recognizing the sovereign immunity protection for state budgets began with the case of *Seminole Tribe v. Florida*, 517 U.S. 44 (1996), in which Democratic Attorney General Bob Butterworth of Florida fought for and won protection for state treasuries against lawsuits.
- Keying off General Butterworth's victory, Judge Pryor, as Attorney General, asserted *Seminole Tribe's* interpretation of sovereign immunity to protect Alabama's budget from lawsuits. See, e.g., *Kimel v. Florida Board of Regents*, 528 U.S. 62 (2000).
- Numerous Democratic Attorneys General have asserted the same position as Judge Pryor, including William Sorrell (Vt.), and Jim Doyle (Wisc.). See *Powers v. Office of Child Support*, 795 A.2d 1259 (Vt. 2002); *EEOC v. Bd. of Regents of the Univ. of Wis. System*, 288 F.3d 296 (E.D. Wis. 2002).
- As Attorney General, Judge Pryor's arguments were well within the mainstream of American law. As noted throughout his nomination hearing, his arguments have frequently been accepted by the U.S. Supreme Court and held to represent the correct interpretation of the U.S. Constitution.

ISSUE:

Some have charged that Judge Pryor called for modification of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act and is therefore against civil rights.

RESPONSES:

Judge Pryor has stated that "the Voting Rights Act is one of the greatest and most necessary laws in American history." The broad support for Judge Pryor by civil rights leaders who know his record demonstrates his full commitment to full and equal rights for all.

- As Attorney General, he has expressed some concern that Congress should consider minor changes to that vital law to end procedural and political abuses that do not affect minority voters and were never intended by Congress. At his nomination hearing, Judge Pryor noted that he has "watched in my own capacity as Attorney General as members of my own political party and white voters, who I don't think were designed by Congress to be protected by this law, have used Section 5 as a sword in litigation for their own political opportunity." He further stated that the fact some changes in Section 5 are appropriate "does not lessen in any way my commitment to the core of the Voting Rights Act, which is Section 2 . . . and I fully support Section 2 and believe it remains a necessary law in our country."
- In litigation, he has successfully defended several redistricting plans adopted by the Alabama Legislature when those plans fulfilled the Voting Rights Act but were challenged by white voters and members of his own political party. In 2000, he won a unanimous ruling from the Supreme Court of the United States that prevented white voters from challenging majority black legislative districts in which the white voters did not reside.
- Democratic Attorneys General have spoken of the need to improve Section 5 of the Act. In Georgia, the State appealed to the United States Supreme Court in order to have its recent redistricting plan approved. In his brief before the Supreme Court, Thurbert Baker, the African-American Democratic Attorney General of Georgia, called Section 5 an "extraordinary transgression of the normal prerogatives of the states" and "a grave intrusion into the authority of the states."
- Judge Pryor helped start the drive to rid the Alabama Constitution of its racist prohibition on interracial marriage, and ultimately was victorious in November 2000. As Attorney General and working with a coalition that included the NAACP, Judge Pryor persuaded the Alabama Legislature to allow a vote on repealing the ban, and the Legislature ultimately agreed.
- Judge Pryor has been praised by a broad range of Alabama African-American leaders for his civil rights record and fairness, including Congressman Artur

Davis, Dr. Joe Reed, chairman of the Alabama Democratic Conference, Alabama Rep. Alvin Holmes, and Cleo Thomas, Secretary of the Alabama Democratic Party.

- As Attorney General, he worked with and appointed former Democratic U.S. Attorney Doug Jones to successfully prosecute former Ku Klux Klansmen Bobby Frank Cherry and Thomas Blanton Jr. for the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. As Attorney General, Judge Pryor personally argued the appeal in the case.

ISSUE:

Some groups have criticized Judge Pryor for defending Alabama's law against sodomy in *Lawrence v. Texas*.

RESPONSES:

- As Attorney General, he had a duty to defend the laws of Alabama against constitutional attack, whether or not he agrees personally with such laws or would have voted for them. Judge Pryor filed a brief in the case because if the Supreme Court struck down the Texas law in a broad manner, Alabama's law would also be invalid.
- Judge Pryor advanced an argument based squarely on Supreme Court precedent upholding such laws. Much of Alabama's brief, including passages most often cited by Pryor opponents, was drawn directly from Justice White's majority opinion in the Supreme Court case *Bowers v. Hardwick*.
- As Attorney General, he immediately acted to comply with the Court's decision in the Texas sodomy case. He issued a release stating that "The Court today expressly overruled its 1986 decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick*. This new interpretation of the Constitution means that the law of Alabama, specifically Section 13A-6-65 (a)(3), which prohibits consensual sodomy between unmarried persons, is now unenforceable."

ISSUE:

Judge Pryor defended prison guards who handcuffed prisoners, who fought with other prisoners or refused to work, to a restraining bar. There have been various statements made that the prisoners were denied food, bathroom breaks, and left in the hot sun for many hours.

RESPONSES:

- At any point in time a prisoner could agree to work and be released from the restraining bar. The prisoner in the case never alleged that the guards he sued for money damages failed to provide him with food, water, bathroom breaks, or anything else required by the regulation.
- Pursuant to his duty as Attorney General, Judge Pryor defended state employees against personal monetary liability because state officials are protected by qualified immunity unless their conduct violates clearly established statutory or constitutional rights which a reasonable person would have known. Federal courts, including the Eleventh Circuit in 2001, agreed with Judge Pryor that there was no clear violation of law. The U.S. Supreme Court heard the case on appeal from the Eleventh Circuit and Judge Pryor had a duty to defend the state officials before the Court.

ISSUE:

Some groups have charged that Judge Pryor does not believe in the separation of church and state.

RESPONSES:

- Judge Pryor's record demonstrates his commitment to religious freedom and the separation of church and state. He advocated in court against the position of the Governor who appointed him concerning religious expression in public schools. The Governor argued, among other things, that teachers should be able to lead prayers. As Attorney General, Judge Pryor took the position that there could be no school-sponsored, government-sponsored religious activity, but that genuinely student-initiated religious expression was protected by the First Amendment. His position was upheld twice by the Eleventh Circuit.
- Judge Pryor worked tirelessly to promote the passage of the Alabama Religious Freedom Amendment ("ARFA") to the Alabama Constitution, which helps protect the religious freedom of political and religious minorities such as Native Americans and prisoners.
- In recognition for his efforts to promote the passage of ARFA and include protections for prisoners within its ambit, Judge Pryor was honored with the 1999 Guardian of Religious Freedom Award by Prison Fellowship Ministries, the Justice Fellowship, and Neighbors Who Care.
- Judge Pryor has used ARFA to try to protect the religious liberties of a Jewish congregation, Temple B'nai Sholom in Huntsville, AL. Members of the congregation have worshiped at the temple since 1899. The congregation wanted to demolish a dilapidated house on nearby property for future expansion of its sanctuary. The city's preservation commission refused permission. The congregation, which did not have enough money to restore the house, sued in federal court. As Attorney General, Judge Pryor's office intervened in the case on the side of the temple, contending that the denial of permission constituted an infringement on religious liberty.
- Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore retained separate counsel to represent him in the litigation concerning Justice Moore's display of the Ten Commandments. As Attorney General, Judge Pryor did not join in certain arguments made by Justice Moore's counsel, including claims concerning the applicability of the Bill of Rights to the States. Judge Pryor's argument that the display was consistent with Supreme Court precedent is within the legal mainstream. In addition, as Attorney General, Judge Pryor supported Justice Moore's primary opponent in the election campaign.

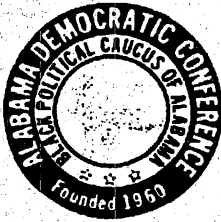
- Judge Pryor, while Attorney General, represented the State and personally prosecuted charges against Justice Moore that ultimately led to Justice Moore's removal from office for defiance of federal court orders.

ISSUE:

Some groups have claimed that Judge Pryor's fundraising activities as part of the Republican Attorney Generals Association (RAGA) were improper or his testimony was inconsistent with RAGA documents.

RESPONSES:

- Judge Pryor has always stated that he helped to raise money for his party and his campaigns and that is a part of our electoral process. At his Judiciary Committee hearing, Judge Pryor stated: "[S]tate Attorneys General are already raising campaign funds in races in their own States, working with their own State political parties. . . . The system we have in America of elections requires candidates to raise funds to wage campaigns."
- Judge Pryor has never stated that Alabama companies did not contribute to RAGA or that he did not solicit companies for contributions. Instead, Judge Pryor testified he would make calls but he did not maintain membership or contribution lists of RAGA, which was handled by staff members, and did not have lists of who contributed or which companies became RAGA members.
- Indeed, despite claims of alleged inconsistencies, no one has pointed to a single instance in which Judge Pryor gave untruthful testimony, either at his hearing or in his answers to written questions.
- According to statements at Senate Judiciary Committee hearings, the Democratic staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee refused to ask a single question of Judge Pryor despite his being available to answer any question from them on at least two separate occasions. On neither occasion did Democratic staff ask a single question or request clarification from Judge Pryor regarding any RAGA-related issue.
- According to then-Chairman Hatch at a Judiciary Committee hearing, the baseless charges are "pure politics, pure delay."



JOE L. REED
CHAIRMAN

Alabama Democratic Conference

P.O. Box 6233

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36106

January 27, 2003

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

RE: Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor

Dear Mr. President:

Through the news media, it has come to my attention that you now have under consideration Attorney General Bill Pryor for appointment as Circuit Judge to the United States 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, of which Alabama is a part. I take this unusual opportunity to urge you to appoint him.

Attorney General Pryor will make a first-class Judge because he is a first-class lawyer and is a first-class public official. He is a person, in my opinion, who will uphold the law without fear or favor. I believe all races and colors will get a fair shake when their cases come before him. As Attorney General for Alabama during the past six (6) years, he has been fair to all people.

For your information, I am a member of the Democratic National Committee and, of course, Mr. Pryor is Republican, but these are only party labels. I am persuaded that in Mr. Pryor's eyes, Justice has only one label - Justice!

I am satisfied that if you appoint Mr. Pryor to the Bench, and he is confirmed by the Senate, he will be a credit to the Judiciary and will be a guardian for justice. I urge you to appoint Mr. Pryor to this important court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joe L. Reed".

Joe L. Reed
Chairman

cc: Attorney General John Ashcroft
Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Jeff Sessions
Senator Patrick J. Leahy



STATE OF ALABAMA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

ALVIN HOLMES
POST OFFICE BOX 6064
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36106

DISTRICT NO. 78
CAPITOL OFFICE 334/242-7706
MONTGOMERY OFFICE 334/264-7807

June 5, 2003

Senator Orrin G. Hatch, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
104 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sirs:

Please accept this as my full support and endorsement of Alabama's Attorney General Bill Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

I am a black member of the Alabama House of Representatives having served for 28 years. During my time of service in the Alabama House of Representatives I have led most of the fights for civil rights of blacks, women, lesbians and gays and other minorities. (See attachments)

I consider Bill Pryor as a moderate on the race issue:

1. From 1998 to 2000, Bill Pryor sided with the NAACP against a white Republican lawsuit that challenged the districts for the Legislature. Pryor fought the case all the way to the U. S. Supreme Court and won a unanimous ruling in *Sinkfield v. Kelley*, 531 U.S. 28 (2000). The lawsuit was filed by Attorney Mark Montiel, a white Republican, and the 3-judge district court ruled 2 to 1 in favor of Montiel. Two Republicans (Cox and Albritton) ruled in favor of Montiel while Judge Myron Thompson, (a black

Democrat) agreed with Pryor that Montiel's white clients had no standing to challenge black districts in which the whites did not live.

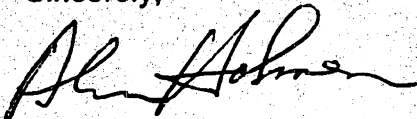
2. In 2001 and 2002, Bill Pryor sided with the Legislature when it redrew districts for Congress, the Legislature, and State Board of Education. Mark Montiel filed lawsuits in federal court (*Montiel v. Davis*) challenging the black districts as racial gerrymanders. Pryor won every lawsuit. Pryor came under heavy pressure from other white Republicans in Alabama for fighting to protect black Legislative seats.
3. Bill Pryor worked with U.S. Attorney Doug Jones to prosecute KKK murderers Blanton and Cherry for the September 15, 1963, bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church that Killed four little girls. Bill Pryor personally argued to uphold Blanton's conviction before the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals on May 20, 2003.
4. Bill Pryor drafted the law (Ala. Code §12-25-2(a)(2)) that created the Alabama Sentencing Commission with the stated purpose of ending racial disparities in criminal punishments.
5. In 2000, Bill Pryor started Mentor Alabama – a program to recruit positive adult role models for thousands of at-risk youth which 99% were black. For the last three years, Bill Pryor has worked every week as a reading tutor for black children in a Montgomery public school.
6. In 2000, I introduced a bill in the Alabama Legislature to amend the Alabama Constitution repealing Alabama's racist ban on interracial marriage. Every prominent white political leader in Alabama (both Republican and Democrat) opposed my bill or remained silent except Bill Pryor who openly and publicly asked the white and black citizens of Alabama to vote and repeal such racist law. It was passed with a slim majority among the voters and Bill Pryor later successfully defended that repeal when the leader of a racist group called the "Confederate Heritage" sued the State to challenge it.
7. I sponsored HB534 this Legislative Session establishing cross burning as a felony. Said bill passed the Alabama House of Representatives on May 15th 2003. That bill was written by Bill Pryor and he was the only white leader in Alabama that openly and publicly supported it.

Finally, as one of the key civil rights leaders in Alabama who has participated in basically every major civil rights demonstration in America,

who has been arrested for civil rights causes on many occasions, as one who was a field staff member of Dr. Martin Luther King's SCLC, as one who has been brutally beaten by vicious police officers for participating in civil rights marches and demonstrations, as one who has had crosses burned in his front yard by the KKK and other hate groups, as one who has lived under constant threats day in and day out because of his stand fighting for the rights of blacks and other minorities, I request your swift confirmation of Bill Pryor to the 11th Circuit because of his constant efforts to help the causes of blacks in Alabama.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Alvin Holmes
State Representative

cc: Members of the Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SETH HAMMETT
Speaker

11 SOUTH UNION STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
334-242-7668

July 14, 2003

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch, Chair
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
104 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

I am writing to convey my unwavering support for the nomination of William H. Pryor, Jr. to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Contrary to the perception that has been created in Washington, I know Bill Pryor to be a fair and balanced person. He follows the letter and spirit of the law.

He has a distinguished career working in the judicial system, in private practice and serving the citizens of Alabama as Attorney General since 1997.

I have served as a Democrat in the Alabama House of Representatives for 25 years and as Speaker of the House for five years. I have never worked with anyone more non-partisan than Bill Pryor.

I sincerely hope the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary will confirm the nomination of Bill Pryor. I give him my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Seth Hammett".

Seth Hammett

cc: Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Jeff Sessions
Attorney General Bill Pryor

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0107

January 10, 2003

Via Hand Delivery

Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senator
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

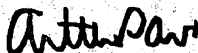
Thank you for all of your kindness during the transition period. You and the rest of the Alabama Delegation have made me feel very welcome.

As you know, several pending vacancies on the Alabama federal bench are attracting attention back home. I understand that the President may be considering Attorney General Bill Pryor for a seat on the Eleventh Circuit. I have the utmost respect for my friend Attorney General Pryor and I believe if he is selected, Alabama will be proud of his service.

In the near future, as openings occur on the District Court, I encourage you to view this as an opportunity to diversify the federal bench. Unfortunately only two African Americans have ever served as federal district judges in Alabama. I believe that a review of the most qualified judicial candidates will inevitably lead to the inclusion of black attorneys. I strongly encourage you to consider recommending for nomination several outstanding black attorneys who have distinguished themselves. I know you would agree that Alabama deserves a federal bench that looks like Alabama.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. I look forward to working together over the coming months and years.

Best wishes,



Artur Davis
Member of Congress



THURBERT E. BAKER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Department of Law
State of Georgia

40 CAPITOL SQUARE SW
ATLANTA GA 30334-1300

March 31, 2003

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators:

I have had the great pleasure of knowing and working with Bill Pryor over the past five years. Through the National Association of Attorneys General, Bill and I have worked together on matters of mutual concern to Georgia and Alabama. During that time, Bill has distinguished himself time and again with the legal acumen that he brings to issues of national or regional concern as well as with his commitment to furthering the prospects of good and responsive government.

During his tenure as Attorney General, Bill has made combating white-collar crime and public corruption one of the centerpieces of his service to the people of Alabama. He joined the efforts of Attorneys General around the country in fighting the rising tide of identity theft, pushing through legislation in the Alabama legislature making identity theft a felony in Alabama. Bill has fought to keep law enforcement in Alabama armed with appropriate laws to protect Alabama's citizens, pushing for tough money laundering provisions and stiff penalties for trafficking in date rape drugs.

Time and again as Attorney General, Bill has taken on public corruption cases in Alabama, regardless of how well-connected the defendant may be, to ensure that the public trust is upheld and the public's confidence in government is well-founded. He has worked with industry groups and the Better Business Bureau to crack down on unscrupulous contractors who victimized many of Alabama's more vulnerable citizens.

From the time that he clerked with the late Judge Wisdom of the 5th Circuit to the present, though, the most critical asset that Bill Pryor has brought to the practice of law is his zeal to do what he thinks is right. He has always done what he thought was best for the people of Alabama. Recognizing a wrong that had gone on far too long, he took the opportunity of his inaugural address to call on an end to the ban on inter-racial marriages in Alabama law. Concerned about

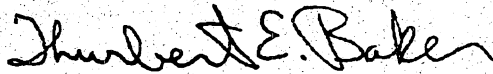
March 31, 2003

Page 2

at-risk kids in Alabama schools, he formed Mentor Alabama, a program designed to pair volunteer mentors with students who needed a role model and an attentive ear to the problems facing them on a daily basis.

These are just a few of the qualities that I believe will make Bill Pryor an excellent candidate for a slot on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. My only regret is that I will no longer have Bill as a fellow Attorney General fighting for what is right, but I know that his work on the bench will continue to serve as an example of how the public trust should be upheld.

Sincerely,



Thurbert E. Baker



STATE OF FLORIDA

CHARLIE CRIST
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 15, 2003

The Honorable Bob Graham
United States Senate
524 Hart SOB
Washington, DC 20510

Re: **Nomination of Attorney General
Bill Pryor to the 11th Circuit, U.S.
Court of Appeals Judgeship**

Dear Senator  Graham:

I would like to recommend to you the appointment of Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor to the 11th Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals.

General Pryor is well qualified for such a position as he has had a distinguished career as a public servant, practicing attorney, and law professor. He attended Tulane University School of Law, where he graduated *magna cum laude* in 1987 and was editor-in-chief of the *Tulane Law Review*. General Pryor began his legal career as a law clerk for the late Judge John Minor Wisdom of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, who is renown for his landmark decisions ordering and implementing desegregation.

General Pryor practiced law from 1988 to 1995 at two well-established Birmingham law firms before being hired in 1995 by then Attorney General Sessions as Deputy Attorney General in charge of special civil and constitutional litigation. He was appointed in 1997 by Governor Fob James as Attorney General of Alabama. In 1998 he was elected by the citizens of Alabama to a four-year term and re-elected to a second four-year term in 2002.

Attorney General Pryor's professional experience gives him the necessary qualifications to meet the demands of the bench with honesty and uprightness, often resisting pressure from his own party in the process. He would be a valuable asset to the 11th Circuit, and I am pleased to strongly recommend him for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist

CC/jm



The State of South Carolina
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

HENRY McMASTER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 20, 2003

United States Senator Ernest F. Hollings
125 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hollings,

I am writing in support of the nomination of my friend Alabama Attorney General William Pryor to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

General Pryor was appointed Alabama's Attorney General in 1997 to the vacancy created by the election of your colleague Jeff Sessions to the United States Senate. General Pryor was then elected in his own right in 1998 and reelected in 2002. When he was first elected, General Pryor was the youngest Attorney General in the nation and was reelected last year with the largest margin of any candidate running statewide in Alabama.

Since his election, General Pryor has earned an outstanding reputation for his work in the area of juvenile justice reform and his relentless prosecution of public corruption, welfare and workers' compensation fraud, and white-collar crime.

In addition to his experience in the attorney general's office, General Pryor also served as a law clerk to the late distinguished jurist John Minor Wisdom of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. I believe General Pryor's broad experience makes him uniquely qualified to serve as a member of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals with fairness and impartiality.

I strongly urge you to support his nomination.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry McMaster".

Henry McMaster

HMcM:gm

CHRIS McNAIR STUDIOS

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY • ONE HOUR & CUSTOM LABS • CUSTOM FRAMING • GRAPHIC DESIGN
• FINE ART GALLERY • BANQUET FACILITIES • GIFT SHOP

June 9, 2003

Senator Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Judiciary Committee
U. S. Senate
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

I am writing to voice my support of Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. In my opinion he will make an outstanding federal jurist.

By way of background, I should advise you that I am a life long Democrat. I was one of the first African-Americans elected to the Alabama House of Representatives where I served from 1973 to 1986. In 1986 I was elected as one of the two African-American members of the Jefferson County Commission, where I remained until my retirement from public service in 2001. In addition, I have been active in numerous civil rights activities over the years. My daughter Denise was one of the four young girls killed in the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church and the fulfillment of Dr. King's dream of equal rights and justice for all has been my personal crusade.

Unfortunately, Bill Pryor's record on civil rights is being distorted. As Attorney General, he has enforced the Voting Rights Acts, which he has described as one of the greatest and most necessary laws in American history. Although he has expressed some concern with certain procedural aspects of the law, his support for the Voting Rights Act and what it stands for has not wavered. In fact, he has successfully defended redistricting plans that were challenged by white voters and members of his own political party.

While Bill Pryor's tenure as Attorney General of Alabama has been marked by a number of cases in which he took stands that I do not personally agree with, I have always found him to be a man of honesty and integrity who attempts to follow all laws faithfully and fully. I firmly believe he will do the same as a court of appeals judge.

On a more personal note, Bill Pryor's personal support for the recent trials of the man convicted of bombing the 16th Street Baptist Church and the murder of my daughter has meant a lot to my family and this community. By designating the prosecutors as Special Assistant Attorney Generals and by providing financial assistance through his office, he demonstrated a commitment to justice that had been long overdue. I had numerous conversations with him about these cases and his desire to see that justice was done. His commitment to the cases was sincere and has been very much appreciated.

45 Sixth Avenue South • Birmingham, Alabama 35205 • Office 205.322.2685 • Fax 205.322.2684
E-mail: mcnairstudios@bellsouth.net

In sum, I believe Bill Pryor to be a man who is committed to following the rule of law regardless of the outcome and that he is personally committed to insuring that all people receive equal justice. I hope that the Judiciary Committee will vote favorably on his nomination.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris McNair". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Chris McNair

cc: Senator Jeff Sessions
Senator Richard Shelby

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS
STATE OF ALABAMA
300 DEXTER AVENUE, P. O. BOX 301555
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-1555

SUE BELL COBB
Judge

(334) 242-4615
(334) 242-4689 FAX

January 21, 2003

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Nomination of Attorney General Bill Pryor

Dear Mr. President:

I have had the good fortune to recommend a variety of people for a variety of positions. Never have I been more honored or confident about a recommendation than I am as I write on behalf of my dear friend and Alabama Attorney General, Bill Pryor.

In November of 2000, both you and I were on the ballot. As I stood for reelection for my second term on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals, I became the only statewide Democrat to survive the 2000 election. Hence, I write, not only as the only statewide Democrat to be elected in 2000, not only as a member of the Court which reviews the greatest portion of General Pryor's work, but also as a child advocate who has labored shoulder to shoulder with General Pryor in the political arena on behalf of Alabama's children. It is for these reasons and more that I am indeed honored to recommend General Pryor for nomination to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Bill Pryor is an outstanding attorney general and is one of the most righteous elected officials in this state. He possesses two of the most important attributes of a judge: unquestionable integrity and a strong internal moral

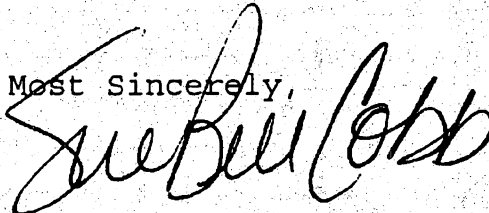
compass. Whether he is reviewing hundreds of appellate briefs to ensure the quality of the work his assistants submit to this court, whether he is preparing to argue one of my cases to the United States Supreme Court,¹ whether he is using his considerable influence to encourage Alabama legislators to make children a top priority, or whether he is in his weekly tutoring session with an "at-risk" child, Bill Pryor is proving that he is a true public servant.

Bill Pryor is exceedingly bright, and a lawyer's lawyer. He is as dedicated to the "Rule of Law" as anyone I know. I have never known another attorney general who loved being the "people's lawyer" more than Bill Pryor. Though we may disagree on an issue, I am always confident that his position is the product of complete intellectual honesty. He loves the mental challenge presented by a complex case, yet he never fails to remember that each case impacts people's lives.

A sportscaster once said about a former Atlanta Braves player, Terry Pendleton, "[H]e does the right thing, because it is the right thing to do." That, Mr. President, perfectly describes Bill Pryor. Hence, it is my profound honor to urge you to nominate a great Alabamian, General Bill Pryor, to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

I would be honored to assist you in any way in making General Pryor's nomination and confirmation a reality. With best regards, I remain,

Most Sincerely,


Sue Bell Cobb
Judge

CC: Justice Alberta "Al" Gonzales
The Honorable John Ashcroft

¹See, e.g., Alabama v. Shelton, 535 U.S. 654 (2002).

**CERVERA, RALPH & BUTTS
ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

**NJ. CERVERA
FRANK P. RALPH
JUSTICE TERRY L. BUTTS**
(Alabama Supreme Court, ret.)

**MALCOLM W. MCSWEAN
GRADY A. REEVES
RUTH L. PAWLK**

POST OFFICE BOX 325
TROY, ALABAMA 36081

**NINE FOURTEEN BUILDING
914 SOUTH BRUNDIDGE STREET
TELEPHONE: (334) 566-0116
TELECOPIER: (334) 566-4073
E-MAIL: troylaw@troycable.net**

June 9, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE and US MAIL

Senator Richard C. Shelby
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jeff Sessions
493 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: William H. Pryor, Jr.

Dear Sirs:

Please accept my whole-hearted endorsement of Alabama Attorney General William H. "Bill" Pryor, Jr. for confirmation on the United States 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. As much as anyone, perhaps I may be uniquely qualified to assess his qualifications and abilities as outlined hereinafter.

In 1998, I retired from the Alabama Supreme Court and was the democratic nominee for attorney general. My opponent was incumbent Attorney General Bill Pryor. As in all politics, the campaign did "opposition research" on Bill. Frankly, there were neither "skeletons," nor anything else of any merit to use against him. Bill Pryor won that election and I came to know him well.

While serving on the Alabama Supreme Court, I had ample opportunity not only to observe Bill Pryor both personally and professionally, but also to read the outstanding legal briefs he filed with the Court. I do not recall a single instance in any criminal case brief that he filed before the Court in which I did not vote for and agree with his legal position.

Since 1998, I have had the pleasure of working with Attorney General Bill Pryor in several cases. We have even traveled together from Montgomery, Alabama to Birmingham, Alabama while representing our respective clients. This gave me an even greater opportunity to observe and come to really know him. I have also visited with him many times in his office. Additionally, my wife and I have socialized with Bill and his

Page 2

lovely wife, Chris, and their two adorable children, Victoria and Caroline.

If called upon to do so, I could speak or write voluminously about my respect for Attorney General Pryor. However, suffice it to say the following:

1. Attorney General Bill Pryor is extremely intelligent and articulate. He enjoys a quick grasp of legal issues, coupled with an excellent ability to state them, be it in legal briefs or oral arguments. There is simply no question about his ability to serve as a federal circuit judge.
2. While some single issue oriented individuals may oppose Bill's confirmation for whatever reason, I find that he has the courage of his convictions. As attorney general, he has steadfastly applied the law even-handedly and without favor to any individual, often to his political detriment. He has never let politics or self-advancement stand in the way of enforcing the law. So if you will forgive a little inelegant colloquialism, as I have said to Bill many times: "Bill, you've got more guts than a hog." (One of the ultimate compliments you could pay a man in rural Crenshaw County, Alabama where I grew up).
3. Aside from Bill's legal qualifications, he is a practicing Christian and a morally upright man. As mentioned above, he has a wonderful family with a gifted wife who works as a CPA. I also have had the opportunity of knowing Bill's parents. They too are fine people enjoying great reputations.
4. Attorney General Pryor enjoys widespread, across-the-board support in Alabama for a seat on the 11th Circuit. This support includes minority groups and their respective leaders, all aspects of the law enforcement community, judges, attorneys and a host of others. This in and of itself should reveal the respect Alabama citizens hold for Bill Pryor.
5. You may also be interested in the fact that when Attorney General Pryor ran for reelection in 2002, I broke ranks with the democrats and publicly endorsed and campaigned for his reelection. I also "put my money where my mouth was" by contributing to his campaign. This should show the appreciation I have for the job he has done as attorney general, as well as the friendship I bear him.

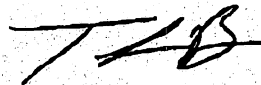
Finally, suffice it to say, I believe Bill Pryor possesses the temperament, the

Page 3

ability, and the moral compass to serve our country as a judge on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. He is a very principled person. I urge his confirmation.

Thank you.

Yours very truly,



Terry L. Butts

PS: Because I believe so strongly that Bill should be confirmed, I would be more than willing to testify publicly on his behalf if that will help.

BAXLEY, DILLARD, DAUPHIN & MCKNIGHT

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**2008 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35233**

April 8, 2003

**TELEPHONE
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(205) 271-1108**

WILLIAM J. BAXLEY

JOEL E. DILLARD

CHARLES A. DAUPHIN

DAVID MCKNIGHT

WILLIAM C. BARCLIFT, III

RANDY JAMES

ELIZABETH W. McELROY

S. JOSHUA BRISKMAN

VIA FAX TO 202-224-3149 AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

**The Honorable Jeff Sessions
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510**

Re: Recommendation of Bill Pryor/Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Senator Sessions:

Media reports confirm that Alabama's Attorney General, Bill Pryor, has been nominated to fill the vacancy which now exists on the Eleventh Circuit.

As you well know, I too am a former Attorney General of our great state. I therefore feel comfortable assessing Bill Pryor's service in that elected office, as well as his fitness to serve the United States as a Circuit Judge. As a Democrat, I am certain I have a more unbiased frame of reference than many. As a lawyer with a diverse practice in Alabama - one which has seen me aligned with him on some occasions and against him on others - I have a better basis than most for gauging his character, fitness and ability.

Bill Pryor is a completely independent man of unwavering convictions. He courageously takes positions dictated by his conscience and does so based upon a truly intellectual sense of right and wrong. In this regard, his willingness to be guided by pure interpretations of the law superbly qualifies him for the federal bench. He has never, to my knowledge, bowed to any pressure from constituents or special interest groups. In every difficult decision he has made, his actions were supported by his interpretation of the law, without race, gender, age, political power, wealth, community standing, or any other competing interest affecting his judgment. This is a rare accomplishment, and the core reason for this, my highest and best recommendation.

I often disagree, politically, with Bill Pryor. This does not prevent me from making this recommendation because we need fair minded, intelligent, industrious men and women, possessed of impeccable integrity, on the Eleventh Circuit. Bill Pryor has these qualities in abundance. I am certain he will be guided completely by his conscience and afford a balanced analysis to every case before him, without unfair advantage to any litigant. There is no better choice for this vacancy.

Respectfully yours,


William J. Baxley



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P.O. Box 10647
Birmingham, Alabama 35202-0647
tel: 205-328-9576
fax: 205-328-9669
www.whatleydrake.com

G. Douglas Jones
writer's direct:
(205) 488-1215

writer's e-mail address: djones@whatleydrake.com

January 31, 2003

Honorable John Ashcroft
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Re: Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor

Dear General Ashcroft:

I hope you will recall a brief telephone conversation we had in early May, 2001, when you called to congratulate me on the successful prosecution of a former member of the Ku Klux Klan for the murder of four young girls who died in September, 1963, when a bomb exploded at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. As the Democratic U. S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, I was grateful for your administration's willingness to allow me to remain in office to complete that important case and truly appreciated your personal telephone call. I am writing now, as a loyal Democrat, to support the nomination of Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Bill Pryor became Alabama's Attorney General less than a year before I was sworn in as U. S. Attorney. In short order we not only formed a strong friendship, but a federal-state working partnership that I believe was second to none. As I am sure you are aware, the working relationships between federal and state law enforcement are often very fragile, especially when the law enforcement leadership is of different political parties. Our partnership, however, was built on mutual respect, trust and a shared desire to serve the citizens we represented. His personal involvement in our joint efforts was critical to the success that was realized, including the success in the church bombing cases.

Interestingly, while Bill and I found ourselves in agreement on so many criminal justice issues, including the manner in which law enforcement and prosecutorial functions should be carried out, we have many fundamental differences on civil and domestic issues. Despite our differences, however, there is no question that Bill Pryor is imminently qualified for the federal

Honorable John Ashcroft
Attorney General
January 31, 2002
Page 2

bench. He is a brilliant lawyer whose career has been marked by fundamental fairness and an appreciation for the rule of law. He has a solid reputation for honesty and integrity that greatly contributed to his overwhelming re-election by the people of Alabama.

I believe you will find that Bill Pryor is held in high regard by people on both sides of the political aisle and by people of all races and gender. He has provided outstanding public service to the people of Alabama and there is no doubt he will serve with even greater distinction as a federal jurist. I sincerely hope that he will receive a favorable recommendation from the Department of Justice and that his name will be forwarded by the President for confirmation by the Senate.

I have pledged to assist in Bill's nomination and confirmation process in any way I can. Please do not hesitate to call on me.

Cordially,

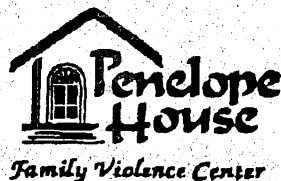


G. Douglas Jones

GDI:kwk

cc: Honorable Larry Thompson, Deputy Attorney General
Honorable Bill Pryor

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36691



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
(251) 342-2809
FAX: (251) 414-3581
SHELTER
(251) 342-3144
24-HOUR CRISIS LINE
(251) 342-8994
FAX: (251) 342-4174

March 17, 2003

Dear Senators Session and Shelby,

I understand that Attorney General Bill Pryor is being considered for an appointment to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I would welcome such a nomination. I mentioned, to my Board at our regular meeting last Thursday, that I would be sending this letter. The entire Board of Directors of Penelope House Family Violence Center here in Mobile, AL, unanimously asked that I include them in support of this nomination.

Attorney General Bill Pryor has been a long time supporter and advocate of Penelope House, and has worked tirelessly to protect women and children from the dangers of domestic violence. To show his love and support for our efforts to assist victims of domestic violence, he has attended our Kiss A Cop celebration every October for the past five years. October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, and for the past 18 years Penelope House has held a luncheon, which we call Kiss A Cop, to honor and recognize the efforts of our local and state law enforcement officials with whom we partner in our efforts to protect and serve victims of domestic violence. When Bill Pryor raises his voice in support of our mission, it enables us to reach every member of our community. Attorney General Pryor not only joins us every October in celebration of domestic violence awareness month, but enables us to reach a State wide audience at every opportunity. Three years ago he reached and touched the hearts of thousands of Alabamians when he placed a drawing by one of our shelter children on the cover of his Christmas card.

Attorney General Pryor is ever vigilant regarding any funding which may become available to our programs and keeps us informed about these sources. He always supports our efforts to obtain grants, and follows and supports legislation which may be of concern to the domestic violence programs throughout our state.

Bill Pryor will bring to the Federal Bench the qualities that all Americans cherish. He is loyal to his State and his Country, is a man of principal and integrity, is highly intelligent, and most of all is a man who has immense compassion and respect for his fellow human beings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn Cournois".

Kathryn Cournois, MSW, EdD
Executive Director

LAW OFFICES

Cunningham, Bounds, Yance, Crowder and Brown, L.L.C.

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GREGORY B. BREEDLOVE*
JOSEPH M. BROWN, JR.*
TOBY D. BROWN*
JOHN T. CROWDER, JR.*
ROBERT T. CUNNINGHAM, JR.*
RICHARD T. DORMAN***
DAVID G. WIRTES, JR.
MICHAEL A. WOREL**
JAMES A. YANCE*

GEORGE M. DENT
R. EDWIN LAMBERTH

* (Certified as a Civil Trial Specialist by the
National Board of Trial Advocacy)
* (also admitted in Georgia)
** (also admitted in New York and
District of Columbia)

VIA E-MAIL AND FACSIMILE

Senator Patrick J. Leahy
Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Senator Herbert Kohl
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Russell D. Feingold
Senator Charles E. Schumer
Senator Richard J. Durbin
Senator John Edwards

Re: Nomination by Senator Jeff Sessions of Alabama Attorney General William Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

Dear Senators Leahy, Kennedy, Biden, Kohl, Feinstein, Feingold, Schumer, Durbin and Edwards:

Please accept this letter as our law firm's united endorsement of Senator Jeff Sessions's nomination of Alabama Attorney General William Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

We are each lifelong Democrats who have substantially contributed to Democratic candidates and supported Democratic principles and ideals. While we have some political differences with Attorney General Pryor, we believe that those political differences are far overshadowed by his excellent judicial qualifications and professional attributes.

We have come to know Attorney General Pryor quite well from working over the past three years with him on a close personal basis in complex litigation where the State of Alabama has sued a number of the major United States oil and gas companies for fraud in connection with allegations of underpayments of royalties owed to the State from production of offshore gas wells. Through that regular contact with Attorney General Pryor

OF COUNSEL
RICHARD BOUNDS
ROBERT T. CUNNINGHAM, SR. (1913-2001)

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June 5, 2003
Page Two

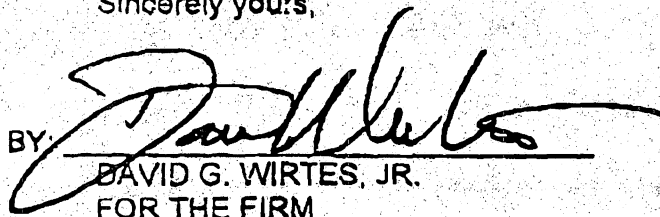
and his staff, we have come to know him very well and can report that he is terrifically gifted in his knowledge and application of the law.

We can confidently assure you and the members of the Judiciary Committee that Attorney General Pryor has always *followed* the law, whether it was to his liking or not. In other words, we have seen no evidence that Attorney General Pryor would use his position as an appellate jurist to legislate from the bench.

Thank you for giving Attorney General Pryor every favorable consideration.

Sincerely yours,

BY:



DAVID G. WIRTES, JR.
FOR THE FIRM

DGWjr/sg

cc: Senator Jeff Sessions

Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

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(OF COUNSEL)

J. PAUL SIZEMORE**
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CHRISTOPHER E. SANDPREE
NORMAN ASHLEY SNAUL***
LARRY A. GULSTON, JR. **
D. MICHAEL ANDREWS

RONALD AUSTIN CANTY
MELISSA A. FRICKETT
W. ROGER SMITH, III**
JOHN B. TOMLINSON
KIMBERLY E. WARD
NAVAH WADD, JR.

*ALSO ADMITTED IN ARIZONA
*ALSO ADMITTED IN ARKANSAS
*ALSO ADMITTED IN FLORIDA
*ALSO ADMITTED IN GEORGIA
*ALSO ADMITTED IN ILLINOIS
*ALSO ADMITTED IN INDIANA
*ALSO ADMITTED IN IOWA
*ALSO ADMITTED IN MISSISSIPPI
*ALSO ADMITTED IN MISSOURI
*ALSO ADMITTED IN NEBRASKA
*ALSO ADMITTED IN NEW YORK
*ALSO ADMITTED IN OHIO
*ALSO ADMITTED IN OKLAHOMA
*ALSO ADMITTED IN SOUTH CAROLINA
*ALSO ADMITTED IN TENNESSEE
*ALSO ADMITTED IN TEXAS
*ALSO ADMITTED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

LUCKE BEASLEY
C. ALLER
MICHAEL J. CROW
THOMAS J. METHVIN
J. COLE PORTIS
W. DANIEL MILES, III
STEPHEN W. DRINKARD
S. GRAHAM ESUALS, JR.
JULIA ANNE BEASLEY
KIMM E. JONES
ROBERT L. PIVMAN
LABAFFON N. ROONE
ANDY D. BIRCHFIELD, JR.
WILFRED D. MURKIN**

C. GIBSON VANCE
J. P. SAMYER**
C. LANCE GOULD
JOSEPH R. AUGHTMAN
DANA G. TAUNTON
J. MARK ENGLISHART*
CLINTON C. CARTER**
BENJAMIN S. BAKER, JR.***
DAVID B. BYRNE, III
TED C. MEADOWS
GERRALD B. TAYLOR, JR.***
DAVID P. WICKLI**
FRANK WOODSON
HUBBALL C. DUNNEN*

March 25, 2003

Senator Jeff Sessions
493 Russell Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

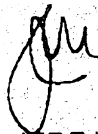
Dear Jeff:

I understand that Bill Pryor will be nominated for a vacancy on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. In my opinion, that will be a very good appointment for the President. I have known Bill since he worked for you in the Attorney General's office and I believe that he has all of the necessary qualifications to do an outstanding job on the federal bench. I am writing to support his nomination.

The Attorney General and I come from different political parties and have disagreed on a number of issues. However, I have tremendous respect for him and sincerely believe that he has served the state well as Attorney General. I would have done some things differently, but that alone does not keep me from supporting him now. Bill Pryor is extremely bright and is a recognized student of the law. His character is beyond reproach and, in my opinion, he will be fair and judicious if he is nominated and confirmed by the Senate.

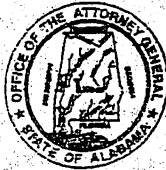
Hopefully, the Senate confirmation will not be a problem. I recommend Bill Pryor to you and other members of the Senate without reservation.

Sincerely,



JERE L. BEASLEY

JLB/lr



STATE OF ALABAMA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

BILL PRYOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL

ALABAMA STATE HOUSE
11 SOUTH UNION STREET
MONTGOMERY, AL 36134
(205) 242-7300
WWW.AGO.STATE.AL.US

April 9, 2003

Senator Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
493 Russell Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

RE: Nomination of Attorney General Bill Pryor to U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit

Dear Senator Sessions:

I write this letter in support of Attorney General Bill Pryor's nomination to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. As the senior staff attorney in the Violent Crimes Division and a 20 year veteran of the Alabama Attorney General's Office, I have had many occasions to work closely with General Pryor on many issues. I have also had the opportunity to spend time with General Pryor outside of the office environment and I consider him a friend. I have found General Pryor to be extremely bright and intelligent with an amazing knowledge and understanding of the legal issues facing our state and our country today. While I do not always agree with him on every issue, I respect Bill Pryor's opinions because I know that his positions on the issues are not based on what is popular or politically expedient. Bill does what he sincerely believes is right according to the law and the facts in every case.

In my opinion, Bill Pryor has been a great Attorney General and I have enjoyed working for him. While I hate to see him leave this office, I know that being a federal judge has been a life long dream of Bills and I know that he has the qualifications and temperament to be a great federal judge. I hope to see his dream become a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gerrilyn V. Grant".

Gerrilyn V. Grant
Assistant Attorney General

Stephanie C. Billingslea
Office of the Attorney General
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

April 24, 2003

Senator Richard Shelby
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shelby:

I write this letter in support of Attorney General Bill Pryor's nomination to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. General Pryor has been my boss for over six years. I have truly enjoyed working for him. He has impeccable character and the judicial temperament necessary for such a high calling. He is a very competent and astute advocate for the state. He accepts nothing but outstanding representation of the state. As Attorney General, he has exuded a high standard of ethics and has always taken his oath of office and duty owed to the people of Alabama seriously.

I have tremendous respect for General Pryor because he has been one whose integrity for enforcing the law is above reproach. He has always taken legal positions that were necessary to preserve our state's rights even when the positions were contrary to popular opinion. As the state's top law enforcer, he has always rendered opinions on controversial issues based on the law rather than be influenced by his own personal views or politics. His notable record of applying the law is what makes him an excellent choice for the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Shortly after his appointment in 1997, General Pryor created the Public Corruption and White-Collar Crime Division of the Attorney General's Office. This division was created to prosecute public corruption, complex economic crimes, election fraud, bid-rigging, and ethics code violations. The Public Corruption and White-Collar Crime Division quickly became the most visible division in the Attorney General's office and gained a reputation of respect. The Public Corruption and White-Collar Crime Division has been one of the most successful divisions in the Attorney General's Office. I applaud General Pryor not only for his foresight in determining that such a division was necessary but for his ability to bring integrity to public corruption and white-collar crime prosecutions. The public's perception that the Public Corruption and White-Collar Crime Division is not an instrument used to target political opponents is attributable to General Pryor's code of ethics and his ability to be evenhanded in the pursuit of justice.

As an African-American, I believe that General Pryor has been fair and sensitive to racial issues. Shortly after the creation of the Public Corruption and White-Collar Crime Division, I was appointed by General Pryor to prosecute cases in the division. General Pryor promoted me just after five months in office and presented me with a special merit raise for

April 24, 2003

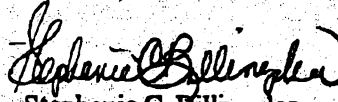
outstanding work three years later. He awarded two African-American special agents the Attorney General's Award of Excellence in the area of investigations for 2001 and 2002. General Pryor created a state-wide mentoring program that has benefited African-American children as well as other minorities. He also supported the removal of the ban on interracial marriage from the Alabama State Constitution.

The State of Alabama has been very fortunate to have General Pryor as its top law enforcer. The citizens of Alabama, Georgia and Florida will also be fortunate to have General Pryor as one of its jurist on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

I wholeheartedly support General Pryor's nomination to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals and believe that he will interpret and apply the law with integrity and character.

Thank you for considering this letter of support. If additional information is needed, you may contact me at (334) 242-7470.

Sincerely,


Stephanie C. Billingslea
Assistant Attorney General

Lynda Woodall

(b)(6)

May 10, 2003

**Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senator
493 Russell Bldg
Washington DC 20510**

Dear Senator Sessions

I am writing in support of Bill Pryor, nominee for the judgeship on the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Persons and groups supporting individuals with disabilities have questioned Mr. Pryor's fairness as a federal judge because of his legal position on the application of the Americans with Disabilities Act to the states. This legal position in no way reflects on Mr. Pryor's treatment or employment of persons with disabilities.

As you know, I have a speech problem resulting from mild cerebral palsy. I worked as an assistant attorney general in the Alabama Attorney General's Office for 25 years under six Attorneys General. Mr. Pryor, as Attorney General, treated me with a dignity and respect I had not experienced in that office. He valued me as a person and as an attorney. It gave me a belief in myself that I previously did not have.

During Mr. Pryor's tenure as Attorney General, several individuals with disabilities have been employed in the Attorney General's Office.

Regarding Mr. Pryor's position on enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, let me assure you and the members of your committee that he is adamant concerning compliance with that law. It was my duty in the Attorney General's Office to submit legislation affecting voting to the United States Attorney General for preclearance under the Voting Rights Act. Mr. Pryor insisted on full compliance with the Act and federal regulations governing submissions.

I know that Mr. Pryor will make an excellent federal judge.

Sincerely,

Lynda Knight Woodall

William Taylor

(b)(6)

March 26, 2003

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

It has been brought to my attention that Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor is being considered for appointment as a Federal Circuit Court of Appeals Judge in the Eleventh Circuit.

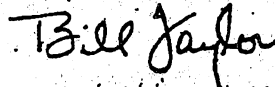
I have worked with and for Bill Pryor for a period of seven years while employed by the State of Alabama Office of the Attorney General. When Attorney General Pryor was appointed to serve out your unexpired term as Attorney General, I was selected to serve as the Law Enforcement Liaison under his administration.

I can honestly say that Bill Pryor is one of the most honest, trustworthy and loyal people that I have ever had the pleasure to work for. Attorney General Pryor's commitment to fair and impartial justice will qualify him to serve in any court in our land. He is a highly intelligent person and he seems to have the ability to sort out the most complex problems in civil and criminal matters without any difficulty.

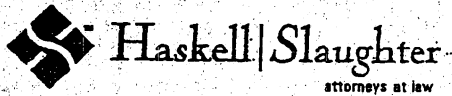
During my employment with Attorney General Bill Pryor, I had the opportunity to travel around the state with him, and he is highly respected by everyone that knows him. He is a God-fearing family man, and his ethical and moral values are above reproach.

I support this nomination with no reservations, and any consideration given to this appointment will be appreciated. I don't know of a more qualified person for this judgeship.

Sincerely,



Bill Taylor



Haskell Slaughter Young & Rediker, LLC
1400 Park Place Tower
2001 Park Place North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
t. 205.251.1000 | f. 205.324.1133

J. MICHAEL REDIKER
DIRECT LINE: (205) 254-1428
JMR@HSY.COM

PLEASE REPLY TO: BIRMINGHAM

March 24, 2003

Senator Jeff Sessions
493 Russell Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Re: Bill Pryor – Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Senator Sessions:

I write to endorse and support wholeheartedly a nomination of Attorney General Bill Pryor to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. My only "regret" would be that William Holcombe Pryor, Jr. could not serve in two positions at the same time, because he has been an outstanding Attorney General for this State, and we hate to "lose" him from that role. But Bill will make an outstanding jurist, as I'm about to explain.

My relationship to Bill Pryor is that he has been my legal "boss" in some securities enforcement litigation I have conducted for the State of Alabama's Securities Commission since 1999. In addition to that, he has over time responded promptly and very effectively whenever a member of our firm has needed guidance or assistance from him or his office.

All who know Bill Pryor will agree that for sheer brain power, and the capacity to absorb, evaluate and act prudently and very competently upon large amounts of information, he has few rivals in this State. The phrase, "quick study," would not do justice to him. He can and regularly does exhibit the ability to master difficult and complex issues, including constitutional, public interest, criminal law and procedural issues. He has an outstanding "mix" of experiences since finishing right at the top of his class at Tulane Law School, which will contribute making him a great judge: private law practice with two leading firms (including Cabaniss Johnston, where I started practice in 1967); public service as the State's litigation counsel in constitutional, voting rights, civil and criminal cases before becoming Attorney General, and then his outstanding service in succession to Senator Sessions in that post; scholar and writer in areas of state/federal relations and comity, constitutional law and public policy; teacher, and adviser to state and federal agencies and departments. Bill Pryor is a leader, and has exhibited throughout his career all the qualities of a "self-starter" who understands the value of hard work.

Senator Jeff Sessions

March 24, 2003

Page 2

I recently had the pleasure of sitting with Bill to discuss issues of constitutional law, federalism and public policy on two different matters, and his easy mastery of difficult issues is daunting. He has demonstrated throughout his public life that he approaches legal and public policy matters in a judicious fashion, grasping each side of the issue and weighing competing considerations fairly. Bill Pryor is a conservative and a believer in our free enterprise system, but his career shows he did not just "adopt" that stance but arrived at it based on long study and due deliberation. He is regarded as ethical, compassionate and not "hide bound" in his views (for example, I was struck by his concept of flexible "cooperative Federalism" in last year's Senate consideration of Clean Air Act issues). There is no doubt that he is, and will be, scrupulously honest, fair and impartial as a judge, and will follow the law and the Constitution.

I ask that you take Bill Pryor to the President, and the Senate, as soon as practicable, to make it possible for him to serve in a position where, before very long, he will be one of the nation's most influential and respected jurists.

Sincerely,



J. Michael Rediker

JMR/lmr



Haskell Slaughter
attorneys at law

Thomas L. Krohn, Esq.
Direct Dial: 205.254.1416
tk@hsl.com

Haskell Slaughter Young & Radiker, LLC
1400 Park Place Tower
2001 Park Place North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
t. 205.251.1000 | f. 205.324.1133

March 28, 2003

Senator Jeff Sessions
493 Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Richard C. Shelby
110 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Re: **Bill Pryor – Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals**

Dear Senators Sessions and Shelby:

I have heard that the Honorable William H. Pryor, Jr. may be considered for nominations to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and I am both honored and pleased to share my thoughts about Bill Pryor and his suitability for consideration for such an appointment. At the outset I have to admit that while I endorse and support his nomination to serve on the Eleventh Circuit I do not wish Alabama to lose one of its best attorneys and most effective public servants. If the Eleventh Circuit is to be enhanced it will be at Alabama's loss.

I have been in and around state government for many years and have come to believe that General Pryor is one of the best, if not the best, Attorney General in recent times. Other attorneys whose opinions I have come to respect over the years share this view of Bill Pryor. Included in this list would be Bill Stephens, general counsel to the Retirement Systems of Alabama, Joe Borg, the Director of the Alabama Securities Commission and many others.

To be sure, other Attorneys General have been more bombastic and charismatic and that is what, in my mind at least, sets Bill Pryor apart from the pack. He is reserved and quiet, but he is also extraordinarily bright and thoughtful. More importantly, I think, Bill Pryor is one of the few persons I have known who possesses absolute integrity. I can think of no finer appointment to the Eleventh Circuit.

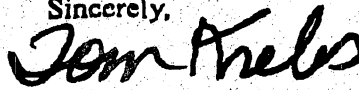
I believe General Pryor will prove to be one of our country's finest jurists. In my personal dealings with him he has manifested an easy mastery of complex and difficult legal

Page 2
March 28, 2003

issucs. In truth, in my most recent meeting with him, I was awed by his complete knowledge of the unique constitutional issue then in discussion. I have visited with several Attorneys General during my years of practice before the Bar, but I have to tell you, I was never so impressed as I was on that day. I have attached the letter I sent to Richard Allen after that meeting.

At the time I wrote to Richard I had not a clue that Senator Sessions would desire to know my position regarding Bill Pryor's nominations to the Eleventh Circuit. If what the President seeks is a bright, fair-minded, deliberate judge, he has found such a person in Bill Pryor. I wholeheartedly support his nomination to the Eleventh Circuit and indeed cannot think of a better nominee.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Krebs

TLK/alb

FRED H. CATE

*Distinguished Professor and Ira C. Batman Faculty Fellow
Director, Center for Applied Cybersecurity Research
Senior Policy Advisor, Hunton & Williams Center
for Information Policy Leadership*

Indiana University School of Law—Bloomington
211 South Indiana Avenue
Bloomington, Indiana 47405-7001

Telephone (812) 855-1161
Facsimile (812) 855-0555
E-Mail fcate@indiana.edu

May 12, 2003

The Hon. Bill Pryor
Attorney General
State of Alabama
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Bill:

I was delighted to learn of your nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Your intelligence, judgment, and integrity are exceptional in my experience. I am confident you will be a superb jurist.

I am a registered Democrat and probably disagree with two-thirds or more of the substantive positions that at least the media attribute to you, but I cannot think of anyone whose fairness, judgment, and respect for people and the law I would trust more. In all honesty, I cannot think of anyone I know better qualified to be a federal judge.

So I write to offer not only heartfelt congratulations, but also any help I can provide during the confirmation process. If you need an academic witness, letter for the record, or anything else within my power, don't hesitate to let me know.

Again, congratulations!

Yours sincerely,



Fred H. Cate
Distinguished Professor and
Ira C. Batman Faculty Fellow

MAYNARD, COOPER & GALE, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
1801 SIXTH AVENUE NORTH
2400 ANSOUTH/MADRETT PLAZA
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35203-2618
(205) 254-1000
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Patrick C. Cooper

Direct Dial (205) 254-1086
E-mail pc@maycogale.com

April 10, 2003

BY U.S. MAIL AND FACSIMILE

Richard C. Shelby
United States Senator
110 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Jeff Sessions
United States Senator
493 Russell Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Shelby and Sessions:

My name is Patrick Cooper. I am an African-American who is a partner at the law firm of Maynard, Cooper & Gale in Birmingham, Alabama. I write this letter in support of the nomination of Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

I first met Mr. Pryor when he was in private practice before he became Attorney General. I have followed his career closely. I greatly respect his intelligence, hard work and integrity. I also admire Mr. Pryor's willingness to lead when others are unwilling to do so -- particularly on the issue of race.

For example, several years ago Mr. Pryor was instrumental in the passage of a constitutional amendment striking a provision in the Alabama Constitution that barred miscegenation. (Specifically, the provision barred interracial marriages between whites and blacks, but no other racial or ethnic group.) Mr. Pryor was the only white statewide elected official -- including both Democrats and Republicans -- who from the outset publicly and actively supported the proposed amendment. He appeared on radio talk shows, wrote editorial pieces and made

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Richard C. Shelby
Jeff Sessions
April 10, 2003
Page 2

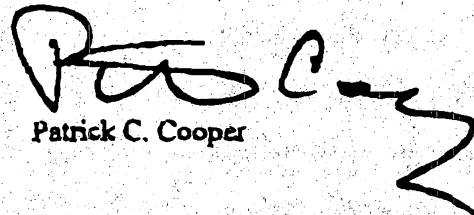
numerous speeches urging voters to rid the Alabama Constitution of this immoral relic of Alabama's Jim Crow days.

Mr. Pryor's support of the proposal was gutsy. As a Republican in Alabama, he had nothing politically to gain and much to lose. Indeed, on election day, several rural counties voted against the proposed amendment, which passed by a somewhat narrow margin.

Mr. Pryor's active support of the proposal was consistent with his effort throughout his tenure as Attorney General to reach out to the minority community in Alabama. On repeated occasions, Mr. Pryor accompanied me to political functions in the black community in an effort to demonstrate that the Alabama Attorney General serves *all* citizens in our state. Often, he was the only white elected official at these events. This speaks volumes in terms of his willingness to address the thorny issue of race in Alabama.

For the reasons expressed above (and others), I strongly support the nomination of Mr. Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Sincerely,



Patrick C. Cooper

PCC/dm

00876186.4

MAYNARD, COOPER & GALE, P.C.

BARRY W. ASHE, ESQUIRE
546 CARONDELET STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130
TELEPHONE: (504) 593-0843
FAX: (504) 596-0843

July 3, 2003

Honorable John Breaux
Senator
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Breaux:

I write to urge that you support the nomination of my friend, Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor, to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. You should do so both by opposing any filibuster of his nomination and by voting for his confirmation when his nomination comes to the Senate floor.

General Pryor has served his State and Nation well as Attorney General since 1998, having been reelected in 2002 with 59% of the vote. His record has earned him respect and support from all quarters in Alabama and across the Nation, cutting across party lines. Before becoming the then-youngest Attorney General in the Nation, Bill served as Deputy Attorney General in charge of special civil and constitutional litigation, he engaged in the private practice of law at two of Alabama's finest law firms, and he taught law on the adjunct faculty at the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University.

Of course, because I am a native Louisianian, a partner at Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann, LLC (a law firm founded by civil rights legend, Judge John Minor Wisdom), a former law clerk with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and a graduate of Tulane Law School, I am most proud to claim ties to General Pryor in each of these capacities. Bill graduated from Tulane Law School in 1986 at the top of his class, *magna cum laude* and Order of the Coif, having served as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Tulane Law Review*. While in school, he clerked with Stone Pigman as well as with Liskow & Lewis, another top-flight New Orleans law firm. Upon graduating from law school, General Pryor served as a law clerk for Judge Wisdom on the Fifth Circuit. However, Bill's connections with Louisiana do not end there. He received his undergraduate degree from Northeast Louisiana University (now the University of Louisiana at Monroe) in Monroe, the home of General Pryor's mother, wife, in-laws, and other ancestors. In addition, Bill's parents and siblings were educated in Louisiana.

685456/1

In short, it would be difficult to find a more qualified public servant to serve the Nation on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. General Pryor has distinguished himself in his education, his judicial clerkship, his career as a lawyer, and his service as Alabama Attorney General. It is also difficult to conceive of a prospective candidate for service on the Eleventh Circuit who has such deep and abiding ties to our own beloved State of Louisiana. Moreover, I've known Bill for over seventeen years and can attest to his impeccable character and integrity, as well as his devotion to his family, his State, and his Nation.

Accordingly, you would do service to your State and Nation by supporting the nomination of Attorney General Pryor to the Eleventh Circuit, and I heartily urge you to do so.

With warm regards, I remain

Respectfully,



Barry W. Ashe

BWA/ljs

LAW OFFICES
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WWW.JOHNSTONBARTON.COM

Anthony A. Joseph
Direct Dial: (205) 458-9447
E-Mail Address: ajoseph@jbpp.com

April 15, 2003

The Honorable Richard Shelby
The United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0103

Re: Nomination of Bill Pryor to the Eleventh Circuit

Dear Senator Shelby:

It is with great honor and pleasure that I write in support of the nomination of Bill Pryor for a seat on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Bill possesses all of the skills and attributes to be an outstanding jurist: solid credentials, sound intellect, practical experience, unblemished character and integrity, and a calm and balanced temperament. Accordingly, I would strongly urge his expeditious confirmation to the Court.

I have known Bill for over 12 years. I have worked for him as a specially appointed Attorney General, and against him in my representation of clients under investigation by the State of Alabama. In working for him, I have always been impressed with his ability to quickly grasp the operable facts, his willingness to listen to the opinions of others, and his sound judgment. In the cases where I have represented clients against the State of Alabama, I have always found Bill to be a strong advocate, but also a fair-minded prosecutor willing to engage in good faith discussions. I am convinced that Bill will bring these same essential qualities to the bench.

Throughout my experience with Bill, he has earned both my respect and my admiration for his commitment to public service, his equal and fair treatment of everyone associated with a particular matter, and his dedication to upholding the honor and integrity of the Attorney General's Office. I am convinced that his consistency and commitment to do the right thing will be continuing traits that he will possess as a judge.

I cannot think of a more worthy candidate for this position and, therefore, submit my strong support of him for a seat on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Again, I would encourage your expeditious confirmation of him for this position.

Senator Richard Shelby
April 16, 2003
Page 2

If I can be of any further assistance in this regard, please let me know. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Anthony A. Joseph

Anthony A. Joseph

AAJ/lc



Post Office Box 17500
Washington, DC 20041-7500
(703) 478-0100 Fax (703) 834-3658
www.prisonfellowship.org

April 1, 2003

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shelby,

I have been informed that President Bush is considering Bill Pryor for nomination to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I have great admiration for Bill and support his nomination with enthusiasm.

I observed Bill during his years as Attorney General of Alabama and was quite impressed. He has a firm grasp of the law, and is an articulate and forceful advocate. He used his office to speak out for reform in prison sentencing and was an ardent supporter of the Kennedy-Sessions Prison Rape Reduction Act. He also was instrumental in the passage of Alabama's Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which guarantees religious freedom for all, including prisoners. In fact, our ministry was so impressed with Bill's energetic support of Alabama's RFRA that we awarded Bill our Guardian of Religious Liberty award.

While Bill is a forceful advocate, he also believes in the rule of law. When the debate ceases, Bill defends the law as it is written by the legislature or a higher court. Bill has a brilliant mind and the proper temperament for service on the Court of Appeals. I strongly urge you to support his nomination for that position.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Colson

CWC:nn



Post Office Box 16069
Washington, DC 20041-6069
www.justicefellowship.org
pjnolan@justicefellowship.org

Phone: 703.904.7312
Fax: 703.475.9679

Pat Nolan
President

April 1, 2003

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
439 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Sessions and Shelby:

I am told that Alabama's Attorney General, Bill Pryor, will likely be nominated by President Bush for the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I wholeheartedly support that nomination.

I have worked with General Pryor on many issues, and have found him to be one of the most capable and energetic leaders in the nation. Bill has shown knowledge of the law, brilliance, courage and compassion. In particular, he has forcefully spoken of the need to protect prisoners from rape, and has been effective in rallying support for the Kennedy-Sessions Prison Rape Reduction Act. He also was the leading proponent of Alabama's Religious Freedom Restoration Act. He criss-crossed the state speaking of the importance of religious freedom, and it is clear that the amendment would not have passed without Bill's leadership.

Bill speaks forcefully and with clarity on the important issues of the day. That is one of the things that make him such an exceptional leader. However, he reveres the rule of law, and has always subordinated his own opinions when the legislative or judicial authorities have ruled on the law.

I am delighted that a man of Bill's integrity and ability may be nominated to the Court of Appeals, and I urge you to support his nomination.

Sincerely,

Pat Nolan
President, Justice Fellowship



"My justice will become a light
to the nations." — Isaiah 51:4

Contact: Martin Colman (703) 827.8616

AMERICAN SENIORS FOR PRYOR

**1747 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006**

American Seniors is national seniors group has concerns about elder abuse. "Elder abuse" is a term that encompass a wide range of mistreatment visited upon senior members of our society, including physical and sexual assaults and deprivations, financial theft or misuse of money and property, telemarketing and internet fraud, home repair fraud and neglect.

American Seniors strongly supports Attorney General Bill Pryor's nomination to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. As Alabama's Attorney General, Bill Pryor has not neglected senior citizens of Alabama, rather, he strives to protect them from all of types of mistreatment. Through vigorously prosecuting their abusers and through increasing the awareness among senior citizens and their families, Attorney General Bill Pryor has seeks for the abused and has prevented many seniors from becoming victims. Attorney General Bill Pryor should be confirmed by the United States Senate.

1) **Physical Abuse and Neglect**

Bill Pryor has sought out physical mistreatment of senior citizens for prosecution and has and publicized prosecutions so that all nursing home workers and abusive family members are on notice that he will hold them criminally responsible abusing seniors.

Bill Pryor takes physical abuse seriously. He convicted a nursing home aid and made sure that the aid received jail time for assaulting with abuse of a protected person when he found out that she had assaulted an 83-year old Alzheimer's resident of the nursing home.

Bill Pryor convicted of a former nursing aide for slapping the face of an elderly resident of an Alabaster nursing home with abuse of a protected person.

2) **Financial Abuse and Theft**

Because senior citizens are increasingly the targets of financial scams, Bill Pryor has fought to protect their pocket books and lifesavings by prosecuting thefts, frauds and scams to the fullest extent. He has sought to make senior citizens aware of financial abuses of all types, ranging from telephone marketing fraud, internet scams, to blatant theft by their care givers.

Bill Pryor convicted a former insurance agent of first-degree theft for his statewide scheme to defraud elderly victims by offering nursing home policies and pocketing their money.

Bill Pryor prosecuted a couple that stole \$400,000 from a 96-year-old woman and charged them with first-degree theft of property and abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a protected person.

Bill Pryor created an educational outreach program to protect senior citizens against telemarketing fraud, including fraud over the Internet, which worked to improve senior citizens' ability to protect themselves against telemarketing fraud.

3) **Preserving Medicaid Resources**

- **Bill Pryor convicted a bookkeeper in a nursing home for stealing thousands of dollars from nursing home residents through medicaid fraud.**
- **Bill Pryor joined an antitrust lawsuit against a major pharmaceutical company which brought \$80,000 back to the Alabama Medicaid Agency.**
- **Bill Pryor supports proposals to settle the current funding dispute between Alabama Medicaid and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services "to eliminate the threat that federal officials will deny Alabama millions of dollars of federal funding."**
- **Bill Pryor reviewed the improper Medicaid cost reporting practices of an Alabama nursing home, resulting in a recovery of \$100,467 in Medicaid funds for the State of Alabama.**

4) Defending Seniors Purchases

When a cemetery in Birmingham, Alabama refused to give a group of elderly African-American citizens who wanted dignified burials in the cemetery where they had purchased plots, Bill Pryor got involved. He took hundreds of complaints and worked to get the plots into the hands of the people that had purchased them.

HERC LEVINE

(b)(6)

June 5, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE (202-224-9102)

Senator Orrin Hatch, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

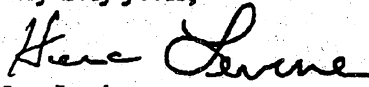
Re: Bill Pryor, Nominee to 11th Circuit of Alabama

Dear Chairman Hatch:

As an active and proud member of the Birmingham Jewish Community, I was disappointed by the decision of the National Council of Jewish Women and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism to oppose the nomination of Attorney General Bill Pryor to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals bench. While I doubt that these groups have taken the time to sit down and talk with Attorney General Pryor, I am proud to say that he has my support and the support of many in the Alabama Jewish Community because of his personal integrity and commitment to insure that all of our citizens are treated fairly and receive equal justice under the law. He has been a true friend to the Alabama Jewish Community on many important issues.

Attorney General Pryor has a distinguished career as a public servant, practicing attorney and law professor, and is highly qualified to serve on the Federal bench. He has a well deserved reputation for fairness and competency that cuts across party lines and which has resulted in overwhelming support from Alabamians of all political parties and segments of our society. His distinguished record as Attorney General affirms my belief that he will serve with great distinction as a Federal judge.

Very truly yours,


Herc Levine

/vk

cc: Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Ranking Member (FAX: 202-224-9516)
Senator Richard C. Shelby (FAX: 202-224-3416)
Senator Jeff Sessions (FAX: 202-228-0545)



Victims of Crime and Leniency
P.O. Box 4449
Montgomery, Alabama 36103

State Office

WATTS LINE: 1-800-239-3219

March 13, 2003

Senator Jeff Sessions
Senator Richard Shelby

Re: Attorney General Bill Pryor

Dear Senator Sessions and Shelby:

It is my understanding that Attorney General Bill Pryor is being considered for an appointment to the 11th Circuit Court of Criminal Appeals. Mr. Pryor is an excellent choice for this appointment.

I have worked in the victim's movement for over 20 years and have worked with Attorney General Pryor on numerous victims' issues the 6 years he has served as Attorney General. He has been most aggressive in victims' legislation and worked tirelessly to rectify the imbalance and disparity in the judicial process.

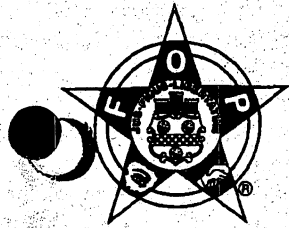
Attorney General Pryor is known as a man of integrity and one who will follow the law to the letter. Crime Victims only ask to be treated fairly and I am confident that will continue if Mr. Pryor gets this appointment.

Mr. Pryor has served Alabama well as Attorney General and will do likewise as Judge of the 11th Circuit. I highly recommend him for this appointment.

Sincerely,

Miriam Shehane
Executive Director

Non-Profit Organization



**GRAND LODGE
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®**

309 Massachusetts Ave., N. E.
Washington, DC 20002
Phone 202-547-8189 • FAX 202-547-8190

CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JAMES O. PASCO, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

6 June 2003

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member,
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sirs:


I am writing on behalf of the membership of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our strong support for the nomination of William H. Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Mr. Pryor currently serves as the Attorney General for the State of Alabama, and has had a distinguished career as a public servant, practicing attorney, and law professor. Before becoming Attorney General in 1997, Bill Pryor served as Deputy Attorney General in charge of special civil and constitutional litigation. In addition to his superb service in his current office, General Pryor graduated *magna cum laude* from the Tulane University School of Law, and began his law career as a clerk for the late Judge John Minor Wisdom of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Two necessary qualifications for any nominee for a position within the Federal Judiciary should be a proven record of success as a practicing attorney, and to have the respect of the law enforcement community of which they will be an important part. General Pryor meets both of these important criteria. He has argued cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Supreme Court of Alabama, as well as the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and has earned the support of the Alabama Fraternal Order of Police.

General Pryor has demonstrated that he will be an outstanding addition to the Federal bench, and on behalf of the more than 306,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I again offer our strong support for his nomination. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Executive Director Jim Pasco, through our Washington office if we may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,


Chuck Canterbury
National President

Alabama District Attorneys Association

Executive Committee Officers

Wm D. Brooks
President
Cullman

Robert E. Owens, Jr.
Vice-President
Columbiana

Nick Abbett
Secretary-Treasurer
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Joseph D. Hubbard
NDAAs Board Rep.
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Scottsboro

Eugenia Loggins
Andalusia

Rea Clark
LaFayette

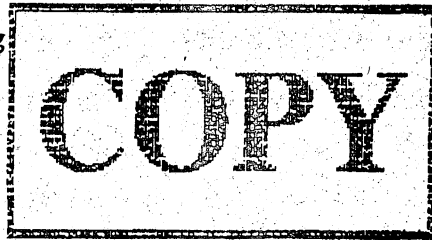
Mike O'Dell
Fort Payne

Steve Ciddens
Talladega

April 1, 2003

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510



Dear Senators Sessions and Shelby:

It is my understanding that President Bush is considering Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor for nomination to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I am pleased and honored to write you today in support of that nomination.

As you both are aware, the duty of a prosecutor is to seek justice, not just secure a conviction. Unlike many others in the criminal justice system, he is duty-bound to find the truth. He must routinely make difficult choices to ensure that the rule of law is applied evenly and with compassion. Former United States Attorney General Robert H. Jackson once stated his thoughts on what it took to be a prosecutor. He said,

"The qualities of a good prosecutor are as elusive and as impossible to define as those which mark a gentleman. And those who need to be told would not understand it anyway. A sensitiveness to fair play and sportsmanship is perhaps the best protection against the abuse of power, and the citizens' safety lies in the prosecutor who tempers zeal with human kindness, who seeks truth and not victims, who serves the law and not factional purposes, and who approaches his job with humility."

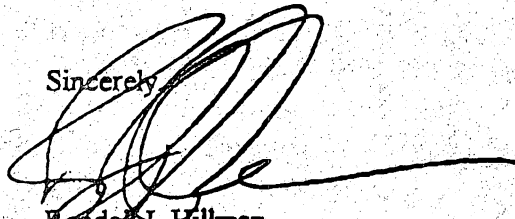
The Honorable Jeff Sessions
The Honorable Richard Shelby
April 1, 2003
Page Two

Bill Pryor is such a man. He is absolute in his commitment to the pursuit of justice, not the popular way out of a situation. In my judgment, these are the very reasons he would make a great judge.

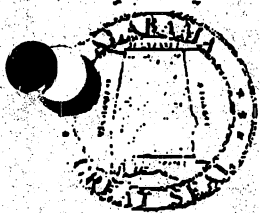
I have spent almost 14 years as a prosecutor and was named as Director of the Alabama District Attorneys Association in 2001. Since Bill became Attorney General, the relationship between himself, this Association, and all of the District Attorneys of this state has grown immensely. We have worked hand in hand in an effort to fight crime and prosecute those offenders who would threaten the welfare and safety of our citizens.

All of these qualities, taken together, are what make Bill an outstanding prosecutor, a good friend, and most importantly, an individual whom I am proud to recommend being a judge on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

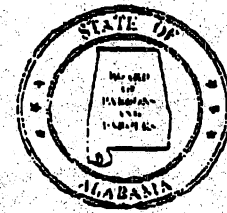
Sincerely,



Randall I. Hillman
Executive Director



STATE OF ALABAMA
 BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES
 Lurleen B. Wallace Building
 500 Monroe Street
 P O Box 302405
 Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2405
 Central Office (834) 242-8700
 Web Page: www.agencies.state.al.us/pardons



SIDNEY T. WILLIAMS
 Chairman of the Board
 GLADYS RIDDLE
 Associate Member
 NANCY CONN MCCREARY
 Associate Member

WILLIAM C. SEGREST
 Executive Director

April 18, 2003

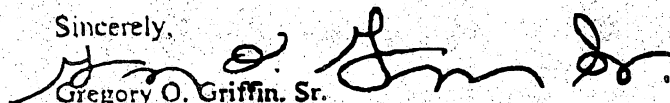
Senator Jeff Sessions
 493 Russell Office Bldg.
 Washington, D.C 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

I am honored to write this letter in support of my friend, Attorney General Bill Pryor's confirmation to a judgeship on the U.S Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. My friendship with Bill Pryor over the years has afforded me the opportunity to view his conduct in the courtroom, behavior as a citizen, as a husband, and as a member of the community. In having the privilege to observe all facets of Bill's behavior, I have yet to find fault with any part of his character or humanity. He is as good as they come.

Bill Pryor sets a high standard by carrying himself with class, behaving with good taste, respect and doing all things in moderation. He will serve the judiciary well. He will not have his decisions corrupted by passion, partisanship, or partiality. He is truly endowed with the divine power of wisdom. I strongly urge the Senate to confirm Bill Pryor.

Sincerely,


 Gregory O. Griffin, Sr.
 Chief Counsel



ALABAMA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

125 South Ripley Street, Suite 1
Montgomery, Alabama 36104
(334) 834-8622 • 1-800-323-2095
FAX: (334) 834-9860

June 11, 2003

Senator Richard Shelby
United States Senate
110 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shelby:

The Alabama Division of Southern States Police Benevolent Association is a non-profit organization consisting of and representing approximately 4,000 sworn law enforcement personnel on the federal, state, county, and municipal levels in the State of Alabama. Alabama PBA is organized into local chapters, with 14 of these currently located throughout the state from Shoals, Madison County, and Northeast Alabama in the north all the way to the Wiregrass Chapter and Mobile County Chapter in the south of the state. One of PBA's goals is to improve the lives and working conditions of its members. The organization addresses several areas in order to accomplish its goal: 1) legal services for members; 2) death benefit (salary replacement for one year); and 3) political activity. PBA works through its local chapters up through the state or division level to accomplish its goal.

ALPBA, in an effort to more effectively meet its political activity goals, holds pre-election screenings for candidates seeking election to public offices at the federal, state, county, and city levels of our government. The screening committee asks the same law-enforcement-related questions of each candidate and then considers their answers along with any opinions and/or statements the candidates offer. ALPBA endorses one candidate in each race. In the 2002 general election, Alabama's attorney general Bill Pryor received an enthusiastic PBA endorsement.

The members of the Alabama PBA firmly believe that Mr. Bill Pryor's qualifications are without question among the finest any attorney of law could possess. Mr. Pryor's professionalism and dedication in ensuring that the law is equally applied to every citizen of Alabama are exactly what our federal appeals courts need to continue to ensure that the law is equally applied to all citizens of our great nation. Mr. Pryor has demonstrated throughout his tenure as Attorney General of Alabama that he upholds the principles of law to which he has sworn and which are mandated by the Constitution of Alabama, as well as the Constitution of the United States of America, without prejudice or bias as to race, sex, or religion. Mr. Pryor would review and render a judgment on the violation of law based solely on the law and the facts presented before his court. Mr. Pryor has continued to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the law and a compelling determination to uphold it.

For these reasons, the Alabama Police Benevolent Association offers its strongest endorsement of Mr. Pryor and on behalf of its membership requests that you support his confirmation as a federal judge in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. For further discussion or if you have any questions regarding this endorsement or the Alabama PBA, please feel free to contact me at 1-800-233-3506, extension 724. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Scott, President
Alabama Division

DRS/pwc

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

ARTHUR BOURNE

President

Gulf Shores Police Department

N. PRICE "TREX" OLIVER, III

Vice President

Saraland Police Department

MICHAEL R. NICHOLS

Secretary

Centreville Police Department



P.O. Box 538

Marion, Alabama 36756

JOHN W. ANDERSON

Executive Director

TELEPHONE (334) 683-6329

CELLULAR (334) 412-7733

FACSIMILE (334) 683-9592

EMAIL: jwa@bellsouth.net

WEB SITE www.aacop.com

April 25, 2003

BY FAX (202) 224-9102

The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman

Committee on the Judiciary

Room 224 Dirksen Building

United States Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch:

On behalf of the Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police, I am pleased to endorse President George W. Bush's nomination of Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

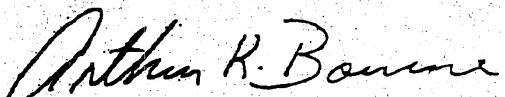
Since General Pryor took office in 1997, the police chiefs of the State have seen him operate first-hand in dealing with law enforcement issues. He has always applied the law fairly, regardless of the politics involved. Whether the parties are black or white, men or women, Republicans or Democrats, General Pryor has followed the law even if he personally wished the law would produce a different result. Attorney General Pryor has demonstrated that he firmly believes that the even-handed rule of law is more important than the preferences of individual officials.

Moreover, Attorney General Pryor cares about people. As the State's chief law enforcement officer, he has to deal with victims, the general public, judges, and state, local and federal law enforcement agencies. By his deeds, Attorney General Pryor has shown that he truly cares about victims, police chiefs, and our line officers who risk their lives every day to protect businesses, schools, and families. Attorney General Pryor is a model public servant.

Chairman Hatch
April 25, 2003
Page 2

The Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police know that Attorney General Bill Pryor will make an outstanding federal judge. We fully support his nomination and urge his swift confirmation.

Sincerely,


Arthur K. Bourne
President/ AACOP

Cc: Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Jeff Sessions

HERBIE JOHNSON, Sheriff
SHERIFF
AUTAUGA COUNTY



162 WEST 4TH STREET
PRATTVILLE, ALABAMA 36067
PHONE: 334-365-3211
FAX: 334-361-3723

March 28, 2003

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

I understand that President Bush is considering Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor for nomination to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I write in support of that nomination.

I have known Bill for a number of years, both in his capacity as Attorney General and as a citizen of Alabama. I have worked with him in his efforts to help law enforcement, and have seen first hand, his commitment to ensure that the people of Alabama are safe, and are well represented in the Courts. It is my experience that Bill is fair and judicious in carrying out the duties of his office.

I have worked for and supported Bill in each of his elections, and have served on several law enforcement committees with him.

I am excited that a person of such integrity is being considered for such an important position, and I support Bill's nomination without reservation.

Sincerely,

Herbie Johnson
James W. "Herbie" Johnson

SHERIFF



BRYANT MIXON

P.O. BOX 279
DALE COUNTY • OZARK, ALABAMA 36361

TELEPHONES: 334-774-2335
FAX: 334-774-2909
E-mail: info@dalecountysheriff.com

March 25, 2003

Senator Jeff Sessions
453 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

This letter is written in support of Bill Pryor for a Judgeship with the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

General Pryor is a leader in Alabama Law Enforcement. His tenacity and diligence has resulted in significant arrests and convictions of both blue and white-collar criminals.

General Pryor's keen intellect and clear understanding of legal issues has been of great benefit to the Alabama Criminal Justice System. He will perform admirably in the Federal Judiciary.

A personal note: Bill Pryor is a quality human being and one of the nicest guys I have met in this business. He serves as a great example of civility and decency.

Thank you for any consideration you give this most excellent candidate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bryant Mixon".

Bryant Mixon
Sheriff, Dale County

Elmore County



Sheriff's Dept.

8955 U.S. HIGHWAY 231
WETUMPKA, ALABAMA 36092

BILL FRANKLIN
Sheriff

March 25, 2003

Sheriff's Office
(334) 567-5546

County Jail
(334) 567-5441

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senators Sessions and Shelby,

It is my understanding that nominations are being considered for the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I am very pleased that President Bush is considering Bill Pryor for this nomination.

During my tenure as Sheriff of Elmore County I have worked indirectly with different Attorney General's for Alabama. Bill Pryor has surrounded himself with extremely capable and professional people in his office to assist Law Enforcement whenever needed. Mr. Pryor has always gone that extra mile to ensure that things are handled properly.

It is good to know that a person such as Mr. Pryor is being considered for such an important position. Hopefully he will come out on top.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Franklin". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Sheriff, Bill Franklin

GROVER W. SMITH,
SHERIFF

Escambia County, Alabama

316 Court Street - Brewton, Alabama 36426



Sheriff's Secretary
251-867-0229
Fax 251-809-2155

March 26, 2003

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

I understand that President Bush is considering Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor for nomination to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I write in support of that nomination.

I have known Bill for a number of years, both in his capacity as Attorney General and as a citizen of Alabama. I have worked with him in his efforts to help law enforcement, and have seen first hand, his commitment to ensure that the people of Alabama are safe, and are well represented in the Courts. It is my experience that Bill is fair and judicious in carrying out the duties of his office.

General Pryor began an annual training program that provides cost free training for law enforcement statewide. He had also obtained funding for every officer in the state to have a personal copy of the criminal code..

I am excited that a person of such integrity is being considered for such an important position, and I support Bill's nomination without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grover W. Smith".

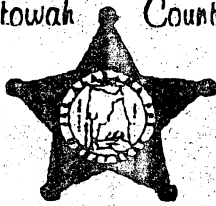
Grover W. Smith
Sheriff

GWS:sep

James Hayes

SHERIFF

Etowah County



827 FORREST AVENUE
GADSDEN, AL 35901

Enforce The Law - Protect & Promote Our Youth

(256) 546-2825
FAX: (256) 549-8137

March 27, 2003

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

I understand that President Bush is considering Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor for nomination to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I write in support of that nomination.

I have known Bill for many years, both in his capacity as Attorney General and even before that when he worked in your office when you were the Attorney General. I have worked with him in his efforts to help law enforcement serving on both boards and committees associated with law enforcement and corrections needs. It is my experience that Bill is fair and judicious in carrying out the duties of his office.

Although General Pryor and I have different political views, we both have the well being and safety of the people of Alabama in mind in all that we do in our official capacity.

I am excited that a person of such integrity is being considered for such an important position, and I support Bill's nomination without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Hayes".

James Hayes
Etowah County Sheriff

City of Demopolis

Department of Police
600 North Walnut Avenue
Demopolis, Alabama 36732
Phone (334) 289-3071



JEFF MANUEL
PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR

CHARLES AVERY
CHIEF OF POLICE

March 25, 2003

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Sessions and Shelby:

It is my understanding that President Bush may nominate Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor for a seat on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. It is my pleasure and honor to write this letter in support of my Attorney General.

I first met Bill Pryor after he was appointed Attorney General. Since then, he has worked hard and devoted his energy to ensure the protection of Alabama citizens. His work has made an impact and improved conditions by helping law enforcement receive the tools necessary to effectively enforce the laws of the state.

I have personally worked with General Pryor, serving on his law enforcement advisory committee and other projects. I am from a small department and General Pryor has as much concern for my agency as he has for the largest agency in the state.

Again, it is my pleasure to support a man that I personally know to have the highest ethics and integrity, which is a necessary trait for this position. I fully support Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor for this nomination.

Sincerely

Jeff Manuel



Florence Police Department

"Serving With Pride"

March 25, 2003

Rick L. Singleton

Chief of Police
(256) 760-6551

Tony Logan

Deputy Chief
Field Operations
(256) 760-6576

Pete Williford

Deputy Chief
Support Services
(256) 760-6575

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

I am excited at the news that President Bush is considering Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor for nomination to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I write this letter in support of his nomination without hesitation.

I have known General Pryor for approximately seven years, having made his acquaintance through his office as attorney general. During that time, I have also come to know him on a very personal basis, and feel strongly that he is the type person we need sitting on our federal courts. He has proven time and time again that he is fair, impartial, and unbiased in his application of the law. His character and ethics are beyond reproach. He is respected by members of both parties in Alabama. The best example of this respect is the fact that his Democratic opponent for the office of attorney general in 1998 endorsed and supported General Pryor's candidacy in 2002.

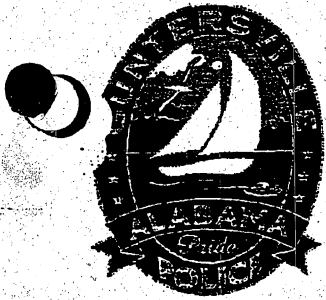
It is my opinion that Bill Pryor would be an outstanding member of the court, and apply the law in the same fair, impartial, and unbiased manner as he has done as attorney general.

Again, I am excited at the prospect of his nomination, and support that nomination without reservation.

Respectfully,

Rick L. Singleton
Chief of Police

RLS/dmj



Guntersville Police Department

340 Blount Ave.
Guntersville, Alabama 35976
Phone (256) 571-7571



March 24, 2003

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sessions,

I understand that President Bush is considering Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor for nomination to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I write in support of that nomination.

I have known General Pryor for a number of years, both in his capacity as Attorney General and as a citizen of Alabama. I have been a member of the Attorney General's Legislative Committee from the beginning of General Pryor's service to the State of Alabama and have worked with him in his efforts to help law enforcement, and have seen first hand, his commitment to ensure that the people of Alabama are safe, and well represented in the Courts. It is my experience that General Pryor is fair and judicious in carrying out the duties of his office.

I am excited that a person of such integrity is being considered for such an important position, and I support Bill Pryor's nomination without reservation.

Sincerely,

J. Scott Walls

J. Scott Walls
Chief of Police
Guntersville, AL



MOBILE POLICE DEPARTMENT



SAMUEL M. COCHRAN
CHIEF OF POLICE

2460 GOVERNMENT BLVD.
MOBILE, AL 36606-1618
(251) 208-1701
(251) 208-1705 FAX

March 27, 2003

MPD file: CP13/032703/P
Re: Bill Pryor

Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510 -

SUBJECT: 11TH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS APPOINTMENT

Dear Senator Sessions:

I am writing in support of your nomination of Attorney General Bill Pryor for appointment to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. I have known Mr. Pryor for several years. I think Mr. Pryor is an excellent choice for this position. I know him to be a very honest and ethical person whom all should be proud to serve on the federal bench. I believe he would be most fair and not swayed by any biases or prejudices which I've never known him to exhibit.

If there is anything I could do in further support of Mr. Pryor for this position, I will gladly do so.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours in service,

SAMUEL M. COCHRAN
Chief of Police
Mobile Police Department

SMC/fpb

c. file P



City of Montgomery, Alabama

BOBBY H. BRIGHT
Mayor

MONTGOMERY CITY COUNCIL
MRS. ALICE D. REYNOLDS - Pres.
JAMES A. NUCKLES - Pres. Pro Tem
WILLIE COOK
TERANCE D. DAWSON
CHARLES W. JINRIGHT

TRACY LARKIN
B. J. (BEN) McNEILL
P. E. (PEP) PILGREEN
CHARLES W. SMITH

March 26, 2003

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
U.S. Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

I was thrilled to receive the information that Attorney General William "Bill" Pryor was being considered for a seat on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. I have known Bill since he began his tenure as Attorney General and it has been a real pleasure to work with a public servant with his degree of commitment and professionalism.

Attorney General Pryor is without question one of the most honest and ethical law enforcement professionals I have ever had the pleasure of working with during my career. His appointment will be a tremendous asset to the Judicial System and will go a long way toward helping local law enforcement officers.

Please accept this as a letter of support and, if my personal testimony is needed I will be more than willing to appear, any time and anywhere, on Attorney General Bill Pryor's behalf.

Sincerely,

John H. Wilson
Chief of Police
Montgomery Police Department

/bmr



CDL. JOHN H. WILSON
Chief of Police

P.O. Box 159, Montgomery, Alabama 36101-0159

(334) 241-2651
FAX (334) 241-2333

D. Allan Wade

(b)(6)

March 25, 2003

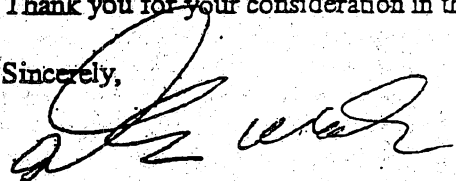
Honorable Jeff Sessions
Senator
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sessions:

It is my understanding that the name of Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor has been offered as a candidate for appointment to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. As Chief of Police for the City of Pelham, Alabama, I would like to add my name to the list of police chiefs from around our great state who heartily support this nomination. I have been privileged to work with General Pryor and his staff on a number of occasions and have always found him to be professional, fair and above all ethical. He is a dedicated, caring public servant and, in my humble opinion, would be an absolute asset to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

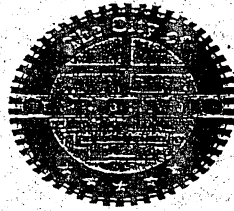
Sincerely,



Allan Wade
Chief of Police
City of Pelham, Alabama

Charles E. Harden
Mayor

Sammie Brown, Jr.
Chief of Police



Captain Yvonne M. Baldwin
Administrative Services

Captain Frank Dees
Criminal Investigations
Community Policing Division

POLICE DEPARTMENT

March 26, 2003

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
493 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

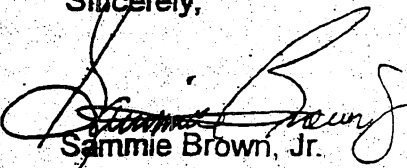
Dear Senator Sessions,

I understand that President Bush is considering Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor for nomination to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. I write in support of that nomination.

I have known Mr. Pryor for a number of years, both in his capacity as Attorney General and as a citizen of Alabama. I have worked with him in his efforts to help law enforcement, and have seen first hand, his commitment to ensure that the people of Alabama are safe, and are well represented in the Courts. When officers of the Prichard police Department were ambushed and a young child killed by drug dealers, Mr. Pryor contacted my office to lend assistance from his office as Attorney General. It is my experience that Mr. Pryor is fair and judicious in carrying out the duties of his office.

I am excited that a person of such integrity is being considered for such an important position, and I support Mr. Pryor nomination without reservation.

Sincerely,


Sammie Brown, Jr.
Chief of Police

SB/mk



The Birmingham News

D.C. draws caricature of Pryor

07/27/03

We in Alabama thought we knew Bill Pryor pretty well. He has served as our attorney general since he was appointed to the job, at age 34, in 1997. He has since run, and won, two statewide campaigns for the post.

In the 2002 general election, he received the votes of more Alabamians than anyone on the ticket except Sen. Jeff Sessions. He outpolled both the winner in the governor's race, Republican Bob Riley, and the winner in the lieutenant governor's race, Democrat Lucy Baxley.

Pryor has been a high-profile attorney general, but not a particularly polarizing one. He has prosecuted corrupt public officials of both parties, sometimes to the dismay of his Republican friends. He has pushed for a sentencing reform commission to make the sentencing of criminals more consistent and more meaningful. He has supported Children First, an initiative to improve the juvenile justice system.

He has taken a conservative position in arguing for states' rights in several cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, and he has successfully defended student-led prayers in public schools. His arguments reflected the views of a large number of his fellow Alabamians. And serving with such outspoken officeholders as former Gov. Fob James and Chief Justice Roy Moore, he has gained a reputation for being restrained and reasonable.

As he told a senator who sought to label him, "In Alabama, I sometimes think I'm called a moderate."

We thought we knew him, but it is very difficult to recognize the Bill Pryor we know in the image that is projected through the partisan prisms of Washington politics.

Right-wing extremist. Shady fund-raiser. Catholic victim of religious persecution.

Those are the images surrounding the Senate debate of Pryor's nomination to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. He was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee Wednesday in a bitter, party-line vote.

Democrats in the Senate appear ready to filibuster on the floor to stop Pryor from being confirmed by the full Senate. Meanwhile, Pryor supporter Sessions is struggling to paint this essentially political fight as some kind of sectional and religious misunderstanding.

As both parties practice for the Super Bowl of confirmation battles, a future opening on the Supreme Court, Alabama's attorney general is being used as a political football. Senate Democrats are looking for any opportunity to kick President Bush's judicial nominees, while Republicans are looking for ways to discredit that opposition.

Yes, Pryor is a conservative, and he has been an active participant in conservative legal and intellectual forums. He was nominated by a conservative president, and many Americans share his views.

Yes, Pryor is personally opposed to abortion. He was nominated by a president who opposes abortion, and many Americans share his views.

However, Pryor's record in Alabama and his promises to the Senate Judiciary Committee indicate he can put aside his personal views to stay true to the law.

It is a shame that the Senate is debating a caricature drawn by Washington's partisan interest groups, and not the Bill Pryor that Alabama knows.

Tom Scarritt is editor of The News. His e-mail address is tscarritt@bhamnews.com.

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The Birmingham News

Pryor under fire

Nomination in trouble, and so is the truth.

07/27/03

The vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee last week on Attorney General Bill Pryor's nomination to the federal court wasn't surprising: The nomination was forwarded to the full Senate on a 10-9 vote along party lines.

What is surprising, and disappointing, is the level to which the debate has fallen.

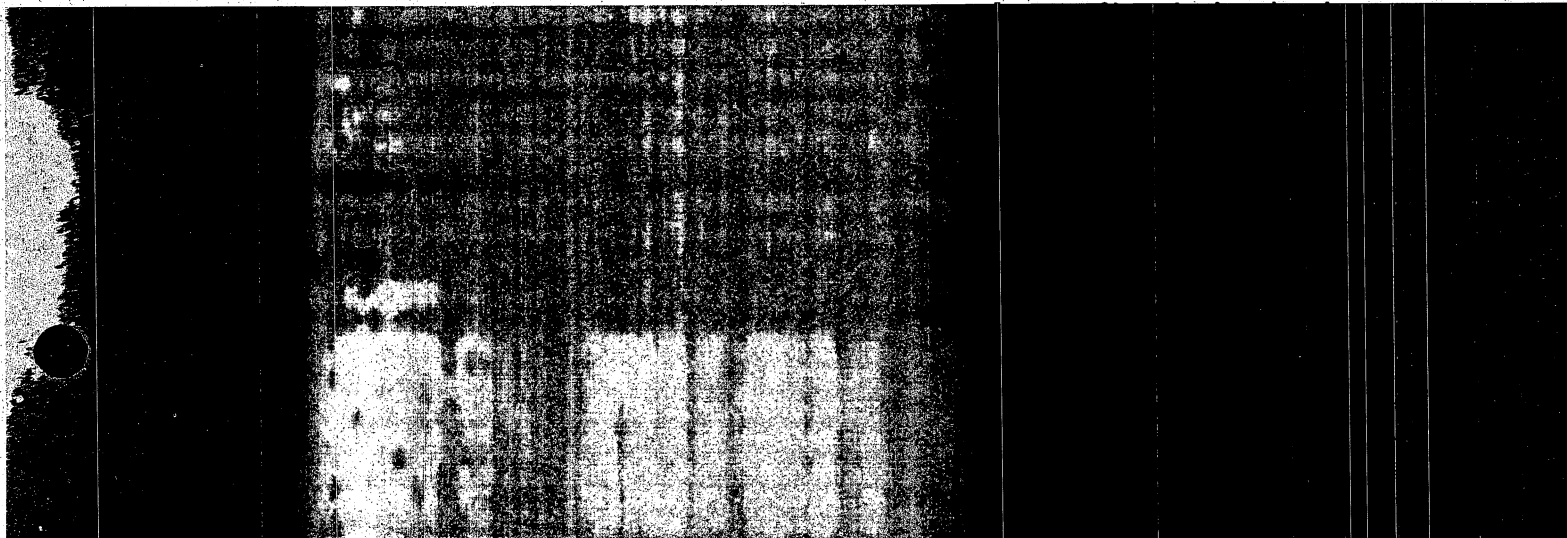
President Bush nominated Pryor to take a spot on the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. As an unabashed conservative, opposition to Pryor was expected from a wide variety of liberal groups.


The picture of Pryor drawn by Democrats in the Judiciary Committee, though, is practically unrecognizable to those who know him and have followed his career. Everything Pryor's motivations, integrity, even religious faith has been subject to comment and questions.

Pryor fell into an even bigger mess last week concerning questions over his role as a fund-raiser for the Republican Attorneys General Association. Certainly, he could have helped himself had he been more open from the beginning about fund raising for the AG's group. This newspaper urged him to release information about the group's financial backers last year, but Pryor refused. Still, there's no evidence he ever did anything illegal.

In a characteristic overreaction, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., called Pryor's nomination "a ticking ethical time bomb ready to go off at any moment."

Please. Give it a rest.





Bush chose Pryor for the federal bench, and Pryor deserves to be confirmed. But as we've seen throughout the hearings over his nomination, perception is far more important than reality.

Pryor's enemies appear willing to do anything to derail his nomination, even if it means ignoring the truth to smear a good man's reputation.

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The Birmingham News

Pryor Restraint

Hard to recognize Attorney General amid attacks

6/11/03

Bill Pryor has been a good attorney general for Alabama.

He has handled most of the state's legal business well. He has led initiatives that will make Alabama a better place to live, such as his own Mentor Alabama that finds volunteers to work with children. He has supported worthy programs such as Children First to upgrade the state's juvenile justice system. He has pushed the Legislature to establish a commission to study the state's out-of-whack sentencing laws. He has been a voice for open government. It's easy to forget Pryor's solid record amid the torrent of liberal interest-group attacks on him leading up to today's hearing of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. The committee will consider whether to recommend Pryor, nominated by President Bush for the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, to the full Senate for confirmation.

According to his attackers, Pryor is unfit to be a federal judge. A sample:

"William Pryor's words and abysmal record in protecting civil, constitutional and human rights demonstrate that he is an avowed extremist and legal activist," said Nancy Zirkin, deputy director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. "His ideological agenda of limiting Congress' ability to pass laws aimed at protecting against discrimination and inequalities should certainly disqualify him from a lifetime appointment to the federal judiciary."

Amid the caricature, it's hard to recognize the thoughtful, earnest attorney general of Alabama for the past six years. Yes, Pryor is conservative, but so is the president who nominated him. That said, Pryor is not blindly conservative, one who would rule the way Republicans want instead of based on what the law says. In fact, he has been criticized by some in his own party for not being Republican enough, even as he is now earning strong support for a seat on the federal bench from black Democrats such as U.S. Rep. Artur Davis and state Rep. Alvin Holmes.

Today's committee hearing could be long and bruising. With 10 Republicans and nine Democrats, the biggest threat to Pryor isn't the committee vote but on the floor on the Senate. If Democrats filibuster Pryor as they have two other Bush nominees, it prevents a vote.

Alabama's attorney general is a fit nominee for the appeals court. The Senate Judiciary

Committee should send his nomination to the full Senate, and the full Senate should confirm him.

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U.S. Newswire, June 11, 2003

100 of 406 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 2003 U.S. Newswire, Inc.
U.S. Newswire

June 11, 2003 Wednesday

SECTION: National Desk

LENGTH: 433 words

HEADLINE: National Police Group Backs Alabama Attorney General Pryor for 11th Circuit Judicial Appointment

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, June 11

BODY:

Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor today received the enthusiastic endorsement of Law Enforcement Alliance of America (LEAA), as the Senate Judiciary Committee holds hearings on his nomination by President Bush to the 11th Circuit Court.

Attorney General Pryor -- who was the youngest Attorney General in America -- is a well-respected lawyer, having graduated magna cum laude in 1987 from Tulane University School of Law, where he was editor in chief of the Tulane Law Review. Respected by politicians from both the left and right, he is a well-regarded lawyer to whom the American Bar Association gave its highest rating.

Bill Pryor has a well-established record in support of common sense criminal justice principles from the death penalty to truth in sentencing. General Pryor has also been a leader in opposing the proliferation of judicial activism through government orchestrated litigation.

"Pryor is eminently well qualified for this nomination and I hope politics don't interfere. He should be speedily approved by the Senate," said Ted Deeds, LEAA's chief operating officer.

Pryor was a law clerk for the late Judge John Minor Wisdom of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; he is an experienced lawyer who was in the private practice of law in two of Alabama's finest law firms. Also, Pryor taught as an adjunct professor at the Cumberland School of Law of Samford University. And, finally, he is experienced before various courts, having argued cases before the Supreme Court of the United States, the Supreme Court of Alabama, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

LEAA Executive Director James J. Fotis said, "I've known Bill Pryor for years and I know him to be well qualified and a defender of the Constitution. Pryor will be an honorable, ethical and impartial jurist who will not only serve the people of the 11th Circuit well, but he will not be a judicial activist making up new law from the bench." Fotis also noted Pryor's strong base of support in Alabama and his service with the White House Office of Homeland Security as an advisory committee member. Fotis concluded, "The Members and supporters of the Law Enforcement Alliance of America and all Americans concerned about justice will be well served by Pryor's speedy confirmation to the court."

With more than 75,000 members and supporters, the Law Enforcement Alliance of America is the nation's largest coalition of law enforcement professionals, crime victims, and concerned citizens dedicated to making America safer. Visit <http://www.LEAA.org>.
<http://www.usnewswire.com>

CONTACT: Eunice Deeds of the Law Enforcement Alliance of America, 703-847-2677

Alabamans give Pryor rave reviews

EQUAL TIME opinion: Response to Atlanta Journal-Constitution Editorial about Pryor

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By Quin Hillyer

Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor, President Bush's nominee for a judgeship on the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, is one of the most universally respected public figures in his home state. National interest groups of the left, ever in search of judicial nominees to victimize, have painted Pryor as an extremist bent on politicizing the courts --- but that portrait of Pryor would be unrecognizable here in Alabama.

Pryor has been attacked for supporting Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore's action in placing a Ten Commandments monument in the state Supreme Court building. But Pryor actually has argued on much narrower (and firmer) legal grounds than the sweeping, theocratic claims Moore has advanced. Pryor cut a TV commercial backing Moore's Republican primary opponent in the last election.

Pryor is under fire for filing a brief against one tiny part of the federal Violence Against Women Act. That one provision would explicitly cite the Constitution's "Commerce Clause" to allow a rape victim to sue her attacker in federal court. Pryor argued, quite reasonably, that rape isn't commerce.

In the case, U.S. v. Morrison in 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed with Pryor. How does one become disqualified for a judgeship for taking a legal position the Supreme Court ruled correct?

In Alabama, Pryor has been one of the nation's ablest and most active prosecutors of rapists and violent sex offenders. He also is the creator of a novel program to encourage victims of domestic violence to seek help, and has been honored by the Penelope House (a battered women's shelter) in its Hall of Fame.

On abortion, meanwhile, Pryor --- unlike his critics --- has shown he understands how to separate personal views from legal duties.

Pryor is indeed a strict Catholic who believes life begins at conception. Last anybody checked, that's his right. But when Alabama's Legislature passed a law that forbade "partial-birth" abortions even before the baby was "viable" outside the womb, Pryor ignored his personal preference and told state law officials not to enforce that provision because it contradicted Supreme Court precedent.

Finally, some of Pryor's opponents have accused him, in effect, of the sin of being Southern. One criticism inferred that Pryor opposes the federal Voting Rights Act. The truth is that Pryor

opposes only one provision, which requires certain Southern states to solicit "pre-clearance" from slow-moving bureaucrats at the U.S. Justice Department for virtually any change in election procedures, even ones as innocuous as moving a polling place from one street corner to the next.

Right now, Georgia Attorney General Thurbert Baker is arguing in favor of Pryor's basic position in a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Those of us in Alabama know our brilliant, 41-year-old attorney general to be utterly fair, highly principled and demonstrably nonpartisan. Bill Pryor will make a superb federal judge.

Quin Hillyer is an editorial writer for the Mobile Register.

The Huntsville Times

Opinion

Another job for Pryor?

If the attorney general becomes a federal judge, his party gains, but the state loses

01/07/03

Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions thinks Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor should be appointed to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Is that good for Pryor? Sure. Is it good for Alabama? Probably not.

Pryor is popular among Republicans. His conservative credentials are intact; he is not reluctant to back certain causes, even though some of them carry a risk. His support for Chief Justice Roy Moore's Ten Commandments monument is one example.

But Pryor is no mere ideologue. He has worked to carry out the duties of his office even-handedly. He has earned the respect of state newspapers for starting investigations into violations of Alabama's open-meetings law.

As the state's chief law-enforcement officer, Pryor understands the difference between major crimes and minor ones. In one meeting with The Times' editorial board, Pryor stated bluntly that the state is releasing rapists so it can incarcerate drug addicts. He advocates sentencing reform.

In addition, Pryor has launched a statewide mentoring program. He believes society must prevent the creation of criminals as well as deal with those who commit crimes.

In short, in Pryor the Republican Party in Alabama has a strong gubernatorial candidate for the future. And the state has a strong and popular attorney general. Even people who disagree with him on some issues find him both likeable and principled.

That's what Alabama Republicans - and Alabama - would lose if Pryor is appointed to the federal bench. Such appointments are for life, and sitting federal judges rarely resign to run for political office.

And there's this: As a federal judge, Pryor, after a few years on the bench, could give an Alabamian a shot at the U.S. Supreme Court. If so, Pryor could be the first Alabamian on the court since Hugo Black. There are no guarantees, of course, but the possibility would exist.

For Alabama, where good news about elected officials can be scarce, the very fact that Pryor is being considered for the federal bench is something to be proud of.

SAD

JUDGE HENRY W. SAAD
NOMINEE TO THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

Biographical Information

- Judge Saad has sat on the Michigan Court of Appeals since 1994, having been reelected twice with broad bi-partisan support.
- The ABA has rated Judge Saad "Qualified."
- Judge Saad would be the first Arab American appointee to the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.
- Judge Saad was a board member of the Greater Detroit Inter-Faith Roundtable of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and a member of the Executive Committee of the American Arabic and Jewish Friends.
- Judge Saad received the "Salute to Justice John O'Brien Award" for outstanding volunteer service to the People of Oakland County in 1997. He received the Arab-American and Chaldean Council civic and humanitarian award for outstanding dedication to serving the community with compassion and understanding in 1995.
- Judge Saad served for fifteen years as a Hearing Referee for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.

Controversial Issues

- No real objections have been raised as to the qualifications of Judge Saad who is a distinguished and experienced jurist.
- Opponents unreasonably seek to block the nominations of these judges because prior Congresses failed to confirm two of President Clinton's nominees. That grievance does not entitle them to block President Bush's Michigan nominees.
- In the past, both parties have left nominations pending at the end of presidents' terms. The effort to block President Bush's Michigan nominations from the outset of his term is extraordinary and threatens a complete breakdown of the confirmation process.

Judge Henry W. Saad
Nominee to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

- **Judge Henry Saad is an outstanding jurist with nearly a decade of experience on the state court of appeals.**
 - ✓ Judge Saad has sat on the Michigan Court of Appeals since 1994, having been reelected twice with broad bi-partisan support. The American Bar Association rated Judge Saad "Qualified."
 - ✓ Judge Saad has significant appellate experience in both civil and criminal matters, and has authored over 75 published majority opinions.
 - ✓ President George H.W. Bush first nominated Judge Saad to the federal bench in 1992, but the Democratic Senate failed to act on his nomination (and one other in Michigan) prior to the end of President Bush's term. Judge Saad nevertheless urged the confirmation of nominees of President Clinton to the Michigan federal courts.

- **Judge Saad was born in Detroit and is a life-long resident of Michigan. He would be the first Arab American appointee to the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.**
 - ✓ "[Bush's nomination of Saad in the wake of the September 11 attacks] conveys an important message to all the citizens and residents of this country that we embrace and welcome diversity and that we are extending the American dream to anyone who is prepared to work hard." U.S. District Judge George Steeh, III, an Arab-American Clinton appointee in Michigan. "Three Nominated by Bush to Appeals Court," *Detroit Free Press*, November 9, 2001.

- **Judge Saad teaches law and had a distinguished career as a practicing attorney before serving on the state bench.**
 - ✓ Judge Saad serves as an adjunct law professor at both Wayne State University Law School and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.
 - ✓ Prior to becoming a judge, Saad practiced law for twenty years at the prestigious Detroit firm of Dickinson, Wright, which he left as a partner in 1994. In private practice, he built a national practice and reputation in the areas of employment law, school law, libel law and First Amendment law.
 - ✓ Judge Saad received his J.D., *magna cum laude*, in 1974 and his bachelor's degree in 1971, both from Wayne State University. In 2000, he received a special Order of the Coif award, which is bestowed by a vote of the faculty upon distinguished graduates who earned their degrees before the law school began inducting students into the Order of the Coif.

- **Judge Saad's nomination has broad bipartisan support, including endorsements from such disparate groups as the United Auto Workers and the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.**
 - ✓ In his state judicial campaigns, Judge Saad has received endorsements from the UAW, the Michigan Education Association, and the AFL-CIO.

- **Judge Saad is dedicated to improving the law and helping his state and local community through volunteer work.**
 - ✓ Judge Saad has been Chairman of the Board of the Oakland Community College Foundation and President of the Wayne State University Law School Alumni Association and is currently a member of the Board of Visitors of the Ave Maria Law School.
 - ✓ Judge Saad was a Board Member of the Greater Detroit Inter-Faith Roundtable of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and a member of the Executive Committee of the American Arabic and Jewish Friends. He also served on the Board of the American Heart Association and as a trustee of the WTVS Channel 56 Educational Television Foundation.
 - ✓ Judge Saad received the "Salute to Justice John O'Brien Award" for outstanding volunteer service to the People of Oakland County in 1997. He received the Arab-American and Chaldean Council civic and humanitarian award for outstanding dedication to serving the community with compassion and understanding in 1995.

- **Judge Saad has a long history of support for the protection of civil rights.**
 - ✓ Judge Saad served for fifteen years as a Hearing Referee for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights.
 - ✓ While in private practice, Judge Saad wrote an article defending the rights of employees afflicted with AIDS to be free from discrimination in the workplace. Mr. Saad wrote that an employer's erroneous view that an employee had tested positive for AIDS could not justify that employee's firing. A contrary result, he argued, would "eliminate any protection for AIDS victims and probably would mean wholesale discrimination against homosexuals by way of testing for AIDS." Henry Saad, "AIDS—Legal Implications for the Employer," 66 *Mich. Bar J.* 164 (Feb. 1987); See also Henry Saad, "AIDS and the Law," *Management Solutions* (Sept. 1986).
 - ✓ Judge Saad worked with the University of Michigan to craft a narrowly tailored policy to prohibit hate speech in campus classrooms, after the University's first policy was voided for vagueness and overbreadth. *Doe v. Univ. of Michigan*, 721 F.Supp. 852 (E.D. Mich. 1989); "The Case for Prohibitions of Racial Epithets in the University Classroom," 37 *Wayne L. Rev.* 1351 (1990).

Statements by Select Supporters of Judge Saad

E. Spencer Abraham, former Secretary of Energy and former U.S. Senator from Michigan

"I have known Henry for twenty years on a personal and professional level. He is a person of unimpeachable integrity and will serve our country and our justice system remarkably well."

John Engler, former Governor of Michigan

"The President selected individuals [including Henry Saad] who are experienced judges and whose reputations for intellect, knowledge of the law, diligence and temperament are well established. Judge Saad has established a distinguished reputation on Michigan's appellate court which he will take to the federal appeals court."

Stephen Yokich, President of the United Auto Workers

"I've known Judge Saad for twenty-five years: he is a man of the highest integrity and a judge who is fair, balanced and hard working. I strongly support President Bush's nomination of Judge Saad to the federal appellate bench."

Congressman Joseph Knollenberg, U.S. Representative from Michigan

"I have known Judge Saad for over twenty-five years. He was an outstanding lawyer and is a highly regarded appellate jurist known for his scholarly opinions, balance and fairness. I am confident he will be a great addition to the federal appellate bench."

Justice Stephen Markman, Michigan Supreme Court

"In his seven years on the Michigan Court of Appeals, Judge Saad has been one of its most thoughtful and fair-minded jurists. His opinions and his judicial integrity have earned him the respect of a remarkably broad range of his colleagues."

Judge Hilda Gage, Michigan Court of Appeals

"I have served with Judge Saad on the Michigan Court of Appeals for six years. I admire his judicial independence and his scholarly analysis of the law. I applaud the President's nomination of Judge Saad to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals."

Ted B. Wahby, Macomb County Treasurer and Democrat

"I have known Judge Saad for many years and believe him to be a fair and principled judge and a good public servant for Michigan. He would be an outstanding federal appeals judge and a credit to his state."