

CRIMINAL LAW AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS SECTION



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September 30, 1998

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VIA FACSIMILE AND REGULAR MAIL

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

Dear Senator Hatch:

On behalf of the Criminal Law and Individual Rights Section of the District of Columbia Bar, I write to reiterate our unqualified support for confirmation of James Klein as U. S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, and our hope that his nomination can receive prompt consideration.¹

The members of our Section include prosecutors, private defense attorneys, and public defenders who practice in the federal and local courts of the District of Columbia. The seat for which Mr. Klein has been nominated has been vacant since February 1996 and urgently needs to be filled. Mr. Klein is superbly qualified to become a District Judge. We therefore respectfully urge prompt and favorable action on his nomination.

In 20 years of public service in the District of Columbia, Mr. Klein has earned deep admiration and respect from the bench and bar. He has earned the strong support of prosecutors and judges. For the past 15 years, he has been Chief of the Appellate Division of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. Under his leadership, that office has become a model for public defender agencies

¹ The views expressed herein are those of the Criminal Law and Individual Rights Section and not those of the District of Columbia Bar or its Board of Governors.

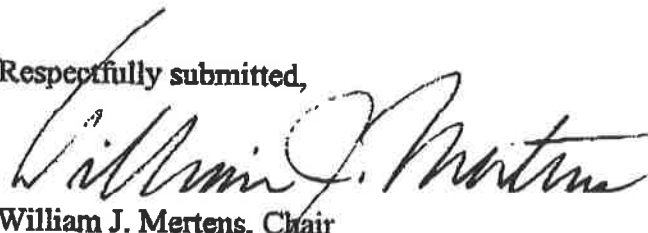
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nation-wide. His fellow lawyers respect him enormously. His stature with the District of Columbia Court of Appeals is such that he has become a standing "friend of the court." Prosecutors and judges alike attest to their belief that, as a judge, he will be rigorously impartial.

We have no doubt that Mr. Klein will be a first-rate judge and that, when it considers his nomination, the Judiciary Committee will agree.

We therefore strongly urge the Committee to give this nomination prompt consideration and to recommend approval of Mr. Klein's nomination to the District Court.

Respectfully submitted,



William J. Mertens, Chair
Criminal Law and Individual
Rights Section

