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From: Brett M. Kavanaugh (CN=Brett M. Kavanaugh/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
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Priscilla Owen

Today ,s Presidential Action:

President George W. Bush today met with Justice Priscilla Owen, nominee to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, and a bipartisan group of her supporters from Texas. Justice Owen was scheduled to have a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee this week, but after one year of delay, her hearing has been postponed again. She is an accomplished jurist of exceptional integrity, character, and intellect and an extraordinarily well-qualified nominee. She deserves a hearing from the Judiciary Committee and a prompt confirmation.

? Justice Owen ,s integrity and accomplishments have earned her the respect of her colleagues and the people of Texas.

? Justice Owen has served with distinction on the Texas Supreme Court since first being elected in 1994.

? During her reelection bid in 2000, every major newspaper in Texas endorsed her, and she was reelected by an overwhelming majority.

? A bipartisan group of 15 past presidents of the State Bar of Texas have written to Chairman Leahy urging an affirmative vote by the Judiciary Committee.

? Democrat former Texas Supreme Court Justices Raul Gonzales and Rose Spector wrote to Chairman Leahy on behalf of Justice Owen.

? Tom Phillips, Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court has characterized Justice Owen ,s work as fair and diligent.) Houston Chronicle, May 10, 2001

? The American Bar Association has unanimously rated Justice Owen & well qualified, 8 its highest possible rating. This ABA rating has been called the &Gold Standard 8 by Democrats on the Judiciary Committee.

? Justice Owen has superb professional and academic credentials.

? Justice Owen practiced commercial litigation in Texas for 17 years before becoming a judge and was a partner at the national law firm of Andrews & Kurth.

? Justice Owen graduated cum laude from Baylor University and Baylor Law School and was a member of the Law Review at Baylor Law School.

? Justice Owen earned the highest grade on the Texas Bar Exam.

? Justice Owen has demonstrated a strong commitment to her community.

? Justice Owen has served as the Texas Supreme Court Liaison to

statewide committees regarding legal services to the poor and pro bono legal services.

? She was part of a committee that successfully encouraged the Texas Legislature to enact legislation that has resulted in millions of dollars per year in additional funds for providers of legal services to the poor.

? She was instrumental in organizing a group known as Family Law 2000 that seeks to find ways to educate parents about the effect the dissolution of a marriage can have on their children and to lessen the adversarial nature of legal proceedings when a marriage is dissolved.

? Justice Owen has the strong support of her home state Senators. Senators Hutchison and Gramm wrote to Chairman Leahy, & Justice Owen is eminently qualified to serve on the Fifth Circuit bench (8

? The people of the 5th circuit in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi need Justice Owen on the bench. Justice Owen is the kind of judge that the people of the 5th Circuit need on the bench) an experienced jurist who follows the law and uses good common sense. She ,s been nominated to a seat that has been classified as a &judicial emergency 8 by the Judicial Conference of the United States, one of 36 such emergencies around the country.

? The Senate has not acted quickly enough on the President ,s judicial nominees. There are presently 93 vacancies in the federal courts . The President has nominated 108 individuals to serve as federal judges, but only 54% of them have been confirmed, and 50 nominees are pending. The President has nominated 32 individuals to the circuit courts, but only 31%, or 10 judges have been confirmed. In the past three administrations, the confirmation rate of circuit court nominees in the first two years in office was 86% for President Clinton, 96% for President Bush and 95% for President Reagan.