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

To: viet.dinh@usdoj.gov (viet.dinh@usdoj.gov @ inet [UNKNOWN]), lori.mcmahon@usdoj.gov (lori.mcmahon@usdoj.gov @ inet [UNKNOWN]), jennifer.newstead@usdoj.gov (jennifer.newstead@usdoj.gov @ inet [UNKNOWN])

Subject: : Washington state talkers

[P_5K105003_WHO.TXT_1.doc](#)

[P_5K105003_WHO.TXT_2.doc](#)

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TO: viet.dinh@usdoj.gov (viet.dinh@usdoj.gov @ inet [UNKNOWN])

READ: UNKNOWN

TO: lori.mcmahon@usdoj.gov (lori.mcmahon@usdoj.gov @ inet [UNKNOWN])

READ: UNKNOWN

TO: jennifer.newstead@usdoj.gov (jennifer.newstead@usdoj.gov @ inet [UNKNOWN])

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here are talkers on Washington state generally and Leighton specifically, as well as his supporters' numbers.

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File attachment <P_5K105003_WHO.TXT_2>

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

File attachment <P_5K105003_WHO.TXT_3>

Washington

- President Bush has nominated a superbly qualified attorney, Ronald Leighton, for the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington.
- Mr. Leighton has had a distinguished career and enjoys wide bipartisan support in Washington (see nominee profile and contacts list attached). There is no legitimate basis to oppose him.
- Senators Murray and Cantwell have sought agreement with the White House on a bipartisan screening commission for district court vacancies. For this vacancy, because of the need to expeditiously fill a vacancy that has long been vacant and because of some disagreement over specifics of any such commission process, such a commission was not employed.
- Judge Gonzales wrote a letter to the two Senators on December 12, however, discussing possible approaches for future district court vacancies.
- Mr. Leighton's nomination should be assessed on its merits. The people of Washington need this vacancy to be filled, and Mr. Leighton, if confirmed, will be a superb judge. Discussions about the appropriate screening process in Washington for future district court vacancies should proceed independently of the Senate's assessment of Mr. Leighton's qualifications and suitability for this seat.

Contacts regarding Ron Leighton

The Honorable Stephanie Arend
Pierce County Superior Court Judge
930 Tacoma Avenue S., Dept. 12
Tacoma, WA 98402

P6/b6

William Bailey
Mills Meyers Swartling
1000 2nd Ave. Suite 3000
Seattle, WA 98104

P6/b6

Richard Benedetti
Davies Pearson
P.O. Box 1657
Tacoma, WA 98401

P6/b6

William Bergsten
McGavick Graves
P.O. Box 1317
Tacoma, WA 98401

P6/b6

The Honorable Robert J. Bryan
US District Court
1717 Pacific Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98402

P6/b6

The Honorable John C. Coughenhour
US District Court
1010 5th Avenue, Room 609
Seattle, WA 98104

P6/b6

The Honorable Frank Cuthbertson
Pierce County Superior Court Judge
930 Tacoma Avenue S., Dept. 21
Tacoma, WA 98402

P6/b6

The Honorable Norm Dicks
US House of Representatives
2467 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515-4706

P6/b6

1717 Pacific Avenue, Suite 2244
Tacoma, WA 98402

P6/b6

Richard Dolack
Dolack Hansler Loran & Ritchie
748 Market Street, Suite 300
Tacoma, WA 98402-3712

P6/b6

Jim Frush
Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell,
Malanca, Peterson & Daheim, LLP
600 University Street, Suite 2101
Seattle, WA 98101-4185

P6/b6

jfrush@gth-law.com

Robert Gould
999 3rd Ave. Suite 3330
Seattle, WA 98104-4013

P6/b6

Thomas Harris
710 9th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

P6/b6

Tim Thompson
Thompson & Dicks Consulting Group
4041 Ruston Way, Suite 1-C
Tacoma, WA 98402

P6/b6

tim@thompsondicks.com

Ronald B. Leighton
Nominee for United States District Court
for the Western District of Washington (Tacoma)

- Mr. Leighton, 50, has been a long-time practitioner in Washington state and has tried over 60 cases, most before a jury. He is a principal in the firm of Gordon Thomas Honeywell Malanca Peterson & Daheim. He specializes in general litigation with emphasis in business litigation, personal injury and products liability litigation, employment litigation, and intellectual property litigation.
- Leighton is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers.
- Leighton was selected among Best Lawyers in America in both Business Litigation and Personal Injury Litigation in 1999 and 2000.
- Leighton was selected by a “Washington Law and Politics” reader poll as Superlawyer in Washington in both 1999 and 2000.
- Leighton was Trustee of the Federal Bar Association for the Western District of Washington from 1986 to 1989 and 1993 to 1995.
- Leighton was Chair of the Judicial Recommendation Committee of the Washington State Bar Association in 1990-91.
- Leighton has been a member of the Judicial Recommendation Committee of the Tacoma/Pierce County Bar Association.
- Leighton was President of the Washington Defense Trial Lawyers in 1989-90.
- Leighton clerked for Justice Frank Richardson on the California Supreme Court in 1977-78.
- Leighton earned his J.D. from the University of California, Hastings in 1976 and his B.A. cum laude from Whitworth College in 1973.
- Leighton was nominated by President George H.W. Bush in 1992 to be a U.S. District Judge.
- Leighton was Chair of the Refugee Resettlement Committee at University Place Presbyterian Church from 1982 to 1985. The committee brought Cambodian families from refugee camps in Thailand and settled them in Tacoma.
- From 1990 to the present, Leighton has been a board member of the R. Merle Palmer Minority Scholarship Foundation, which mentors and financially supports minority students who want to go to college.

- Leighton is Chair of the Tacoma Actors Guild Association.
- Leighton was a varsity baseball player, student body president, and Rhodes Scholarship Nominee in college.