

Received(Date): 16 JUL 2002 10:56:07

From: "Willett, Don" <Don.Willett@usdoj.gov> ("Willett, Don" <Don.Willett@usdoj.gov> [UNKNOWN])

To: "Jennifer Oschal (E-mail)" [P6/b(6)] (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Jennifer Oschal (E-mail)" [P6/b(6)] (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN]), "Alex Dahl (E-mail)" <alex_dahl@judiciary.senate.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Alex Dahl (E-mail)" <alex_dahl@judiciary.senate.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN]), Anne Womack (CN=Anne Womack/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), Brett M. Kavanaugh (CN=Brett M. Kavanaugh/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), "Barbara Ledeen (E-mail)" <Barbara_Ledeen@src.senate.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Barbara Ledeen (E-mail)" <Barbara_Ledeen@src.senate.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN]), "Goodling, Monica" <Monica.Goodling@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Goodling, Monica" <Monica.Goodling@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN]), "Charnes, Adam" <Adam.Charnes@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Charnes, Adam" <Adam.Charnes@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN]), "Sales, Nathan" <Nathan.Sales@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Sales, Nathan" <Nathan.Sales@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN]), "Remington, Kristi L" <Kristi.L.Remington@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Remington, Kristi L" <Kristi.L.Remington@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN]), Tim Goeglein (CN=Tim Goeglein/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), "Manuel Miranda (E-mail)" <Manuel_Miranda@judiciary.senate.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Manuel Miranda (E-mail)" <Manuel_Miranda@judiciary.senate.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN]), Heather Wingate (CN=Heather Wingate/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO]), "Leonard Leo (E-mail)" <lleo@fed-soc.org> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Leonard Leo (E-mail)" <lleo@fed-soc.org> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN]), "Kay Daly (E-mail)"

P6/b(6)

(Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Kay Daly (E-mail)" (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN]), "Keefer, Wendy J" <Wendy.J.Keefer@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Keefer, Wendy J" <Wendy.J.Keefer@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN]), "Dinh, Viet" <Viet.Dinh@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Dinh, Viet" <Viet.Dinh@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN]), "Koebele, Steve" <Steve.Koebele@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Koebele, Steve" <Steve.Koebele@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN]), "O'Brien, Pat" <Pat.O'Brien@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("O'Brien, Pat" <Pat.O'Brien@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN])

Subject: : FW: willett.pdf

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: "Willett, Don" <Don.Willett@usdoj.gov> ("Willett, Don" <Don.Willett@usdoj.gov> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 16-JUL-2002 10:56:07.00

SUBJECT: FW: willett.pdf

TO: "Jennifer Oschal (E-mail)" [P6/b(6)] (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Jennifer Oschal (E-mail)" [P6/b(6)] (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN])

READ: UNKNOWN

TO: "Alex Dahl (E-mail)" <alex_dahl@judiciary.senate.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Alex Dahl (E-mail)" <alex_dahl@judiciary.senate.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO:Anne Womack (CN=Anne Womack/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

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

READ:UNKNOWN

TO:"Barbara Ledeen (E-mail)" <Barbara_Ledeen@src.senate.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Barbara Ledeen (E-mail)" <Barbara_Ledeen@src.senate.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO:"Goodling, Monica" <Monica.Goodling@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Goodling, Monica" <Monica.Goodling@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN])

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READ:UNKNOWN

TO:"Remington, Kristi L" <Kristi.L.Remington@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Remington, Kristi L" <Kristi.L.Remington@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO:Tim Goeglein (CN=Tim Goeglein/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])

READ:UNKNOWN

TO:"Manuel Miranda (E-mail)" <Manuel_Miranda@judiciary.senate.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Manuel Miranda (E-mail)" <Manuel_Miranda@judiciary.senate.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN])

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READ:UNKNOWN

TO:"Dinh, Viet" <Viet.Dinh@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("Dinh, Viet" <Viet.Dinh@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN])

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TO:"O'Brien, Pat" <Pat.O'Brien@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) ("O'Brien, Pat" <Pat.O'Brien@usdoj.gov> (Receipt Notification Requested) (IPM Return Requested) [UNKNOWN])

READ:UNKNOWN

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Pls. see below -- pro-Owen letter from several former presidents of the State Bar of Texas.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sutton, Jason

Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2002 10:32 AM

To: Willett, Don

Subject: willett.pdf

willett.pdf

- willett.pdf

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

File attachment <P_50OR8003_WHO.TXT_1>

HUGHES | LUCE LLP
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

1717 Main Street, Suite 2800
Dallas, TX 75201
214.939.5500
214.939.6100 fax

hughesluce.com

July 15, 2002

Darrell E. Jordan
214.939.5050
dejordan@hughesluce.com

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
224 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy:

As past presidents of the State Bar of Texas, we join in this letter to strongly recommend an affirmative vote by the Judiciary Committee and confirmation by the full Senate for Justice Priscilla Owen, nominee to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Although we profess different party affiliations and span the spectrum of views of legal and policy issues, we stand united in affirming that Justice Owen is a truly unique and outstanding candidate for appointment to the Fifth Circuit. Based on her superb integrity, competence and judicial temperament, Justice Owen earned her Well Qualified rating unanimously from the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary - the highest rating possible. A fair and bipartisan review of Justice Owen's qualifications by the Judiciary Committee certainly would reach the same conclusion.

Justice Owen's stellar academic achievements include graduating *cum laude* from both Baylor University and Baylor Law School, thereafter earning the highest score on the Texas Bar Exam in November 1977. Her career accomplishments are also remarkable. Prior to her election to the Supreme Court of Texas in 1994, for 17 years she practiced law specializing in commercial litigation in both the federal and state courts. Since January 1995, Justice Owen has delivered exemplary service on the Texas Supreme Court, as reflected by her receiving endorsements from every major newspaper in Texas during her successful re-election bid in 2000.

The status of our profession in Texas has been significantly enhanced by Justice Owen's advocacy of *pro bono* service and leadership for the membership of the State Bar of Texas. Justice Owen has served on committees regarding legal services to the poor and diligently worked with others to obtain legislation that provides substantial resources for those delivering legal services to the poor.

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Hon. Patrick Leahy

July 15, 2002

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Justice Owen also has been a long-time advocate for an updated and reformed system of judicial selection in Texas. Seeking to remove any perception of a threat to judicial impartiality, Justice Owen has encouraged the reform debate and suggested positive changes that would enhance and improve our state judicial branch of government.

While the Fifth Circuit has one of the highest per judge caseloads of any circuit in the country, there are presently two vacancies on the Fifth Circuit bench. Both vacancies have been declared "judicial emergencies" by the Administrative Office of the U. S. Courts. Justice Owen's service on the Fifth Circuit is critically important to the administration of justice.

Given her extraordinary legal skills and record of service in Texas, Justice Owen deserves prompt and favorable consideration by the Judiciary Committee. We thank you and look forward to Justice Owen's swift approval.

Sincerely,



Darrell E. Jordan

On behalf of former Presidents of the
State Bar of Texas

Blake Tartt

James B. Sales

Hon. Tom B. Ramey, Jr.

Lonny D. Morrison

Charles R. Dunn

Richard Pena

Charles L. Smith

Jim D. Bowmer

Travis D. Shelton

M. Colleen McHugh

Lynne Liberato

Gibson Gayle, Jr.

David J. Beck

Cullen Smith

cc: The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Office of Legal Policy U. S. Justice Department