

Received(Date): 8 APR 2003 09:50:40

From: "Remington, Kristi L" <Kristi.L.Remington@usdoj.gov> ("Remington, Kristi L" <Kristi.L.Remington@usdoj.gov> [UNKNOWN])

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

Subject: : FW: PDF documents...

[P_PH4GF003_WHO.TXT_1.pdf](#)

[P_PH4GF003_WHO.TXT_2.pdf](#)

[P_PH4GF003_WHO.TXT_3.pdf](#)

Begin Original ARMS Header

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR:"Remington, Kristi L" <Kristi.L.Remington@usdoj.gov> ("Remington, Kristi L" <Kristi.L.Remington@usdoj.gov> [UNKNOWN])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 8-APR-2003 09:50:40.00

SUBJECT:: FW: PDF documents...

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

READ:UNKNOWN

End Original ARMS Header

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

From: Washington, Tracy T

Sent: Tuesday, April 08, 2003 9:46 AM

To: Remington, Kristi L

Subject: PDF documents...

Tracy T. Washington

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legal Policy

Main Building, Room 4234

(202) 514-2737

- O'Reilly.pdf - Owen.pdf - Hightower.pdf

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

File attachment <P_PH4GF003_WHO.TXT_1>

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

File attachment <P_PH4GF003_WHO.TXT_2>

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

File attachment <P_PH4GF003_WHO.TXT_3>

Mary Sean O'Reilly

The Conciliation Institute: Mediation and Arbitration
3000 Wesleyan, Suite 110
Houston, Texas 77027-5753
Telephone: 713.621.6225 Telefax: 713.621.6204 Toll Free: 1.877.262.0221

August 14, 2002

Dear Senator Feinstein

As a devout and genetic Democrat since the age of twelve, and a participant in the Democratic Party for decades, I write to ask that you support the confirmation of Justice Priscilla Owen to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

I was a member of an order of Catholic Sisters, the Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur for sixteen years. I am still on the Financial Advisory Committee of our Sisters, and the Dominican Sisters of Texas. I work closely with the Sisters on domestic social justice issues and with our Sisters in Rwanda and Congo. I graduated from University of Houston School of Law in 1977, while in the Order, and worked with abused women and children as a Legal Service trial attorney in family law for six years before being appointed as an associate judge in the Tarrant County, Texas, family courts for seven years. I have subsequently served in various family courts in Texas, always as a Democrat.

From this perspective, I can credibly register my dismay at the attacks against Justice Priscilla Owen. Some news media and interest groups have portrayed her as cold and uncaring, out to help the powerful at the expense of the people. My experience with Justice Owen is the opposite. She is an extremely compassionate, caring woman, who time and again has used her influence on behalf of noble causes.

I met Justice Owen in January, 1995, while working with her on the Supreme Court of Texas Gender Neutral Task Force, a working group dedicated to promoting equality for women involved in the Texas legal system. I had given written and oral testimony at the state-wide hearings in various Texas cities as the original Gender Bias Task Force was preparing the State's first comprehensive Gender Bias Report. Justice Owen was one of the three editors of the final Gender Neutral Handbook that is now available to all attorneys and judges in Texas.

Later, in the years 1996 through 1999, I worked with Justice Owen on Family Law 2000, an important state-wide effort, initiated in great part by Justice Owen. Some of the main beneficiaries of this project were the children who are too often ensnared in the legal system. The committee was comprised of judges, lawyers and psychologist, working throughout the state, to

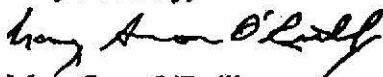
review and implement systemic change in family law and civil procedure regulations. The goal of Family Law 2000 was to make the court system practical, more helpful and affordable for Texas families. We achieved some important goals, including changes in our rules of Civil Procedure, in part due to the tireless efforts and collaboration of Justice Owen with other members of the Supreme Court of Texas.

On another occasion, Justice Owen worked in support of the *Amicus Curie* brief that went to the United States Supreme Court in support of IOLTA funds being available for legal services to indigents in Texas. There have been at least two occasions where Justice Owen and I have had long and comprehensive discussions about the need for quality legal services for families that live in poverty, and I am convinced of her dedication to ensuring that the poor have access to the courts.

Political affiliations and preferences have never gotten in the way of my professional collaborations with Justice Owen. I am a life-time member of the NAACP and have served on the national board of NETWORK, a well-respected Catholic social justice lobby in Washington, D.C. from 1978 through 1984. I have contributed to Emily's List, the Southern Poverty Law Center, The Carter Center, Habitat for Humanity, Democratic US Senate Committees and several Democratic Presidential, House of Representative, State and County Democratic elections for many years, including the presidential campaign of Al Gore and (through Emily's List) to your Senate campaign. I am a pro-choice Democrat.

Notwithstanding our political and philosophic differences in some important areas, I consider Justice Owen to be a long-standing professional colleague of the highest caliber. In the almost eight years I have known Justice Owen, she has always been refined, approachable, even-tempered and intellectually honest. Although we are not close personal friends, we have shared stories of our families, women's issues and some of the challenges that face jurists. She has demonstrated her compassion toward women, families, and the poor. She has used her extremely high level of legal ability and skill for the betterment of her community. I trust Justice Priscilla Owen's sense of the role of the judiciary in the federal and state systems implicitly. I believe Justice Owen to be highly qualified for the federal bench and I know that she will act with great care and independence if given the opportunity to serve our Nation in this capacity. I urge you to reject the absurd attacks that have been made against her and vote to confirm Justice Owen.

Very sincerely,



Mary Sean O'Reilly

Priority: Normal

Topic:

Sent: 3/25/02

From: Emeritus, President

To: dick@durbin.senate.gov; info@kyl.senate.gov;
russell_feingold@feingold.s...; sam_brownback@brownback.sen...;
senator@biden.senate.gov; senator@feinstein.senate.gov;
senator@kennedy.senate.gov; senator@mcconnell.senate.gov;
senator@sessions.senate.gov; senator@thurmond.senate.gov;
senator_hatch@hatch.senate.gov; senator_kohl@kohl.senate.gov;
senator_leahy@leahy.senate.gov

CC:

March 25, 2002

Dear Senators:

I write to support the nomination of the Honorable Priscilla Owen for the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Justice Owen is well-known to me, both from her undergraduate and Law School days at Baylor University, where I served for 20 years as President and Chancellor, as well as during the two year period from 1995-1997 when I served as Chair, Texas State Commission on Judicial Efficiency.

Justice Owen is a superlative individual in every way. She is extremely bright, she possesses great integrity and is equipped with the character or moral virtues necessary for the high office she holds as well as the high office for which she has been nominated.

During the work of the Commission I had frequent contact with Chief Justice Thomas Phillips and most of the Associate Justices. I found that Chief Justice Phillips and Justice Owen were most supportive of the Commission's recommendation that judges in the State of Texas should not be elected and, therefore, subject to the possible conflicts that are perceived to be present. We recommended to the State Legislature, and Justice Owen concurred, that judges be appointed to their first term and then would have to run for office after the first term in retentive nonpartisan elections. This appoint/elect/retain system would reduce campaign contributions dramatically.

Based on my knowledge of Justice Owen for the past 30 years I believe that you simply cannot make a more solid choice for the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Respectfully yours,

Herbert H. Reynolds
President and Chancellor Emeritus
Baylor University
Waco, Texas 76798

I give my name and position but under University guidelines I speak for myself only.

Copies faxed to: Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Charles Grassley, Senator John Edwards, Senator Arlen Specter, Senator Maria Cantwell and Senator Mike DeWine

JACK HIGHTOWER

P6/(b)(6)

August 20, 2002

Via Facsimile 202-228-3954

The Honorable Dianna Feinstein
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

It was my privilege to serve as a member of the Supreme Court of Texas with Justice Priscilla Owen for two years prior to my retirement from the bench January 1, 1996. I had not known her personally prior to that time. I knew that she had graduated from my alma mater with honor and was a valued member of the Andrews & Kurth law firm in Houston.

When Justice Owen joined the court she impressed me as being a very quick study because although she had no previous judicial experience she seemed to be able to quickly grasp the issues and frame them into judicial questions with great clarity.

In my opinion she was unbiased and wanted to find the core legal issue in each case.

When she joined the court I knew, of course, that Priscilla was a Republican. She ran and was elected on the Republican ticket. I am convinced that her political philosophy is honestly Republican. That is as it should be. I am a Democrat and my political philosophy is Democratic, but I tried very hard not to let preconceived philosophy influence my decision on matters before the court. I believe that Justice Owen has done the same.

I am also of the opinion that the people are not well served by the partisan election of judges. I have not always been of this opinion, but after two statewide elections for the court, and after raising and spending millions of dollars, I believe that there must be a better way.

Yours truly,

