

January 30, 2016

VIA FACSIMILE

Senator Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

RE: Confirmation of 7th Circuit Judicial Candidate Donald Schott

Dear Senator Grassley:

The undersigned, past presidents of the State Bar of Wisconsin, urge your consideration of the most recently nominated judicial candidate for the 7th Circuit, Donald Schott.

The vacancy for which Mr. Schott has been nominated was created when Judge Terence Evans took senior status in 2010. Judge Evans passed away in 2011. This judicial vacancy is one of the longest vacancies of record.

As past presidents of the State Bar, we are keenly aware of the need for an effective judicial system to handle disputes and address federal questions. This longstanding vacancy places higher demands on the remaining judges, results in Wisconsin based disputes being resolved without judges from Wisconsin serving on the panel, and slower times to resolution of disputes.

We ask that you take up this nomination and give the candidate a vote as soon as possible. Delaying consideration of this nominee hurts the judicial system and the people of the State of Wisconsin.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

The Past Presidents of the State Bar of Wisconsin

Patricia K. Ballman
Thomas J. Basting, Sr.
Michelle A. Behnke
James M. Brennan
R. George Burnett
Gregory B. Conway
John R. Decker

Diane Diel
Patrick J. Fiedler
Robert R. Gagan
Franklyn M. Gimbel
D. Michael Guerin
Douglas W. Kammer

Gerald Mowris
Gerald M. O'Brien
John S. Skilton
Thomas S. Sleik
Susan R. Steingass
John Walsh

cc: Senator Ron Johnson
Senator Tammy Baldwin