Dear Senators Leahy and Grassley:

We are law school deans, writing in our individual capacities in enthusiastic support of Cornelia (Nina) Pillar, whom President Obama has nominated to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Professor Pillar is an accomplished lawyer, scholar, and teacher, and has devoted her career to public service and to training others in the best traditions of the law. Her confirmation to the D.C. Circuit would continue a long tradition of law professors serving on that court, including Antonin Scalia, Robert Bork, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Harry T. Edwards and Douglas H. Ginsburg.

As a tenured professor of law at Georgetown, where she started her academic career in 1997, Pillar has taught hundreds of students in required academic subjects, including Constitutional Law and Civil Procedure. She is a beloved teacher and mentor, diligent in service to Georgetown and the larger community, and a productive and highly respected scholar. Professor Pillar also has extensive and wide-ranging experience in the practice of law. She has practiced at the trial level, in the courts of appeals and in the Supreme Court, handling both civil and criminal cases. She has served as a top-level executive branch lawyer in the Office of Legal Counsel. And, as an Executive Committee member of the Board of Directors of the American Arbitration Association, she has experience with the increasingly important law governing private dispute settlement. In her scholarly and professional work, Professor Pillar has shown herself to be fair-minded, sensible, a rigorous and sophisticated thinker, and a peerless advocate.

Professor Pillar’s scholarship confirms her careful, respectful, and sensible approach to legal issues. She has questioned barriers to access to the courts, but at the same time recognized the need to deter unfounded litigation. She has critiqued doctrines that deny remedies to victims of government abuse without sound justification, and simultaneously questioned judicial constructs that leave individual government officials on the hook for reasonable legal mistakes in
the line of duty. In her legal advocacy and scholarship, Professor Pillard shows a clear understanding of fundamental distinctions between the roles of courts and the political branches, and between law and culture, morality, politics or other important sources of norms that guide and constrain human behavior. Throughout her work, she has shown an appreciation of nuance and respect for opposing viewpoints, grounded in a profound commitment to fair process and fidelity to the law.

In short, Professor Pillard is a talented advocate, a brilliant legal mind, a sensible and moderate problem solver, and a careful thinker who has devoted her career to public service and work for others. We wholeheartedly urge that you confirm her to the D.C. Circuit.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

**School names and titles are for identification purposes only and do not indicate support by the institution.**