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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Letter	J. Leon Holmes [Page 1] - To: Orrin Hatch - From: Susan Holmes	1	04/21/2003	P6/b6;
002	Letter	Nomination of J. Leon Holmes... [Page 1] - To: Orrin Hatch - From: Jeanne Seewald	1	04/08/2003	P6/b6;
003	Letter	[Letter] - To: Orrin Hatch - From: Charles Schlumberger	1	04/18/2003	P6/b6;
004	Letter	[Letter] - To: Patrick Leahy - From: Charles Schlumberger	1	04/18/2003	P6/b6;
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COLLECTION TITLE:
Counsel's Office, White House

SERIES:
Kavanaugh, Brett - Subject Files

FOLDER TITLE:
Holmes, Leon

FRC ID:
9695

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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News from...

U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas

355 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510 Phone (202) 224-4843 Fax (202) 228-1371

For Immediate Release
April 11, 2003

Contact: Drew Goesl
(202) 224-4843

Lincoln Statement on Judicial Nominee Leon Holmes

Washington – U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-Ark.) today issued the following statement today concerning Leon Holmes, an Arkansas native who is President Bush's nominee to serve as federal court judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas:

"After questions were raised by Senators about the views of Leon Holmes during consideration of his nomination in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday, April 10, I asked him to address these questions to me. His response to me indicates that while he has expressed his views in a harsh and intemperate manner in the past, he now regrets some of those characterizations.

"Together with a substantial number of recommendations from respected Arkansas citizens, mostly in the legal community, Mr. Holmes' answers convince me that he can set his personal views and religious beliefs aside both as a lawyer and a judge, if he is confirmed. While Mr. Holmes and I differ in some of our beliefs, I am confident that Mr. Holmes will be a fair judge who is not influenced by political ideology or religious teachings. Moreover, I believe Mr. Holmes' recognition of and apology for inflammatory statements made in the past is an indication that he has grown and matured as a person.

"In deciding to maintain my support for Leon Holmes as Federal District Judge in Arkansas, I cannot ignore the many letters of support generated by members of the legal community in Arkansas, many of whom also share different views than Mr. Holmes. These letters describe him as 'fair', 'compassionate', 'even-handed' and 'disciplined'. His colleagues hold him in high esteem.

"Mr. Holmes demonstrates in his letter to me that even on emotional issues like a woman's right to choose, he can respect the opposite view."

A copy of Mr. Holmes's letter to Lincoln is attached.

– 30 –

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April 11, 2003

Via fascimile to (202) 228-2042

The Honorable Blanche Lincoln
United States Senate
355 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lincoln:

Certain issues have surfaced about my nomination since we met, and because they have arisen since we met, you and I have not had the opportunity to discuss them personally. Out of respect for you personally, and out of respect for the important constitutional role of the Senate in the appointment process for federal judges, I wanted to write to you this letter to address some of these issues.

In the 1980's I wrote letters to the editor and newspaper columns regarding the abortion issue using strident and harsh rhetoric. I am a good bit older now and, I hope, more mature than I was at that time. As the years passed, I came to realize that one cannot convey a message about the dignity of the human person, which is the message I intended to convey, using that kind of rhetoric in public discussion. While I cannot speak for those who raise these issues, my impression is that my statements about the abortion issue that they criticize are all more than fifteen years old.

As I stated in response to written questions from Senator Durbin, I am especially troubled by the sentence about rape victims in a 1980 letter to the editor regarding the proposed Human Life Amendment; and, as I said there, regardless of the merits of the issue, the articulation of that sentence reflects an insensitivity for which there is no excuse and for which I apologize. I do not propose to defend that sentence, and I would not expect you or anyone else to do so. My impression is that, in fulfilling your responsibilities in this matter, you have spoken with or heard from many Arkansans, male and female, who know me well. I hope, and I believe, that their comments have and will give you assurance that this 23 year-old sentence is not indicative of how I have conducted myself in the past several years and not indicative of how I would conduct myself as a judge.

In 1987, when I was President of Arkansas Right to Life, that organization was attacked in a guest column in a newspaper on the ground that its members allegedly defined life too narrowly and were, as I read the column, hypocrites. That same column stated that abortion involves a taking of human life. In response, I wrote that, if the author believed that abortion takes a human life, he should start his own pro-life organization but should not use our defects as a reason not to act on his beliefs. In

that context, I asked the rhetorical question, what if someone had advanced such a basis as a reason not to save lives during the holocaust? I did not intend to say that supporters of abortion rights should be equated with Nazis. I have never intended anything that I said to give that impression, and I do not think my comments, which now are criticized, were taken to mean that when they were written. From 1983 through 1988, when I was active in pro-life activity and was writing most of the columns that are now criticized, I was an associate at a large law firm, and I worked for and with many lawyers who are pro-choice. Since then, most of my partners have been pro-choice. I have had many cases with and against lawyers who are pro-choice. No one raised this concern at that time nor at any time prior to the past two weeks. I believe that no one raised this concern because everyone who knows me recognizes that I did not intend such a thing. The letters written on my behalf by pro-choice colleagues are strong testimony of their confidence in me.

While I expected that my past activities relating to the abortion issue would draw scrutiny, and properly so, I did not expect that my religious beliefs would draw similar scrutiny, but they have. I am aware that some concern has been expressed about a 1997 column co-authored by my wife and me for our local Catholic newspaper on historic teachings of the Catholic Church. The Catholic faith is pervaded with the view that the visible things symbolize aspects of the spiritual realm. This pervasive element of the faith is manifest in the teaching that the marital relationship symbolizes the relationship between Christ and the Church. My wife and I believe that this teaching ennobles and dignifies marriage and both partners in it. We do not believe that this teaching demeans either the husband or the wife but that it elevates both. It involves a mutual self-giving and self-forgetting, a reciprocal gift of self. This teaching is not inconsistent with the equality of all persons, male and female, and, in fact, in that column we say, "[a]ll of us, male and female, are equally sons of God and therefore brothers of one another." This aspect of my faith–the teaching that male and female have equal dignity and are equal in the sight of God–has been manifest, I believe, in my dealings with my female colleagues in our firm and in the profession as a whole. While I am not at all ashamed of my faith, or any part of it, I do not believe that the historic Catholic teaching that the marital relationship symbolizes Christ and the Church is or has been relevant to my conduct in my professional life, nor would it affect my conduct as a judge, should I be fortunate enough to be confirmed.

Another aspect of my faith is that God brings good out of evil. I wrote about this belief, as taught by Booker T. Washington, in the context of a 1981 article in a religious magazine. Washington taught that God could and would bring good out of evil. Washington, who was born in slavery, recognized it as evil, not only in theory but as a part of his earliest experience. Yet, his faith was so great that he believed that God could bring good from that evil; and his love was so great that he hoped that those of his race would become a beacon of God's love to their oppressors. My article combines his view of providence–that God brings good out of evil–with his view that we all are called to love one another. This teaching can be criticized only if it is misunderstood.

Some of the criticisms directed at things I wrote years ago are just; some of them are not. I hope that my legal career as a whole, spanning the years 1982 through 2003, evidences that I am now ready to assume the responsibility of a United States District Court Judge. I certainly was not ready in 1980, nor for many years thereafter, and I do not claim that I was. My impression is that my colleagues in the Arkansas bar–those who know me well and who represent clients in federal court–believe that my legal career as a whole manifests a readiness to assume the responsibilities of a district court judge, and I hope that you believe so as well.

With best wishes and warmest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Leon Holmes

J. Leon Holmes

cc: The Honorable Mark Pryor (*via facsimile* to (202) 228-0908)

SUSAN HOLMES

(b)(6)

April 21, 2003

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: J. Leon Holmes

Dear Senator Hatch:

I read the questions and comments from some of the Senators on the Judiciary Committee attacking Leon Holmes' character because of an article he and I co-wrote. Some have suggested that in this article we advocated that women should be subservient to their husbands. Nothing could be further from the truth. I felt compelled to write because these allegations, by inference, also call my character into question.

I assure you I have never considered myself subservient to anyone. I am the co-author of the article "Gender Neutral Language." The article is a product of my Bible study over the many years of my marriage. It should be noted that immediately preceding the verses in Ephesians 5 where wives are instructed to be submissive to their husbands, all Christians, male and female, are told to "be submissive to one another." The article was published in a Catholic newspaper where the readership should be familiar with this passage. The article was not intended as a how-to manual for wives but to point out the symbolic use of the language used in Scripture and prompt a discussion on the effects on theology of trying to gender-neutralize the language used in church. The article also explicitly points out that everyone, male and female, comes to God in an equal relationship. It has no application to anyone who is not attempting to follow the Catholic/Christian faith. I would be more than willing to explain it to anyone who wished to discuss it with me.

Leon and I have had a wonderful marriage for 31 years. We have five children. I have worked outside the home and chosen not to work outside the home at different times. Leon has always been supportive of me as a person in whatever I have chosen to do.

We are a team and have worked as a team that mutually respects each other. When Leon desired to quit law school in 1975 and pursue a Master's Degree, he asked my permission before applying to graduate programs. When he wanted to continue on to the Ph.D. level, he again asked me for my permission before applying to Duke. Obviously, from his resume, I agreed.

I have a B.A. in journalism from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. I have worked as an editorial assistant at Duke University, a correspondent for the Moline Dispatch in Moline, IL, and the Springdale News in Springdale, AR. I also worked as the town reporter for the Lonoke Democrat in Lonoke, AR.

In 1985, when I wished to quit working outside the home and devote my time to my family and personal interests, Leon was similarly supportive of me. While we now have what looks like a "traditional" – man working, woman at home – marriage, there is no rigidity to our marriage. I am the one who fixes the plumbing, installs fans, builds fences, and does the carpentry work, as well as doing traditional home work. Leon has cooked his share of meals, washed dishes, done laundry and changed numerous diapers.

Leon's personal and religious beliefs both center first on the value of each and every person; regardless of gender, age, race, abilities, faith, economic status, education, or any other category. He does not simply treat everyone with respect, he truly does respect everyone. That is the quality that makes him a great candidate to be a judge. That is the reason people in Arkansas on all sides of issues respect him.

Sincerely,

Susan Holmes

Susan Holmes

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

LETTERS IN SUPPORT OF LEON HOLMES NOMINEE TO THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, EASTERN DISTRICT ARKANSAS

LAW PROFESSORS

1. Howard W. Brill, University of Arkansas, School of Law, December 20, 2002

ATTORNEYS AND OTHER SUPPORTERS

1. George O. Collins, Collins & Bargione, March 6, 2003
2. Wm R. Wilson, Jr., United States District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas, March 19, 2003
3. Kent J. Rubens, Rieves, Rubens & Mayton, March 21, 2003
4. Stephen Engstrom, Wilson, Engstrom, Corum & Coulter, March 24, 2003
5. Eileen Woods Harrison, McMath Woods, P.A., March 24, 2003
6. Cathleen V. Compton, Dudley & Compton, March 24, 2003
7. Beth M. Deere, Williams & Anderson, March 24, 2003
8. Nate Coulter, Wilson, Engstrom, Corum & Coulter, March 25, 2003
9. Philip S. Anderson, Williams & Anderson, March 25, 2003
10. Kristine G. Baker, Quattlebaum, Grooms, Tull &Burrow, April 8, 2003
11. Robin J. Carroll, Vickery & Carroll, PLC, April 8, 2003

12. Jeanne L. Seewald, April 8, 2003

13. Bradley D. Jesson, Hardin, Jesson & Terry, PLC, April 9, 2003

14. Charles L. Schlumberger, April 18, 2003

15. Susan Holmes, April 21. 2003

16. R. Margaret Dobson, Dobson Law Firm, P.A., April 23, 2003

17. Jeff Rosenzweig, Attorney at Law, April 25, 2003

18. Wm. R. Wilson, Jr., Judge, United States District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas, April 25, 2003

19. Mike Huckabee, Governor, State of Arkansas, Office of the Governor, April 28, 2003

20. Field K. Wasson, Jr., Oppenheim, A division of BOSC, Inc., April 29, 2003

21. David A. Grace, Hardin & Grace, April 30, 2003

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Vincent Foster Professor of Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility
316 Waterman Hall • (479) 575-5358 • (479) 575-3146 (FAX)

December 20, 2002

The Honorable Alberto R. Gonzales
Counsel to the President
Executive Office of the President
West Wing, Second Floor
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Judge Gonzales:

This letter is to enthusiastically support the nomination of Leon Holmes, of Little Rock, to the federal bench for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

I have known Leon for 20 years, first as a student in my law school classes, then as an outstanding trial and appellate lawyer, through his opinions as a Special Justice on the Arkansas Supreme Court, and through his work in civic organizations.

He is a master of the English language. The written words flow in clear, sharp, and definitive fashion. His concurring opinion in Hoyle v. Faucher, 334 Ark. 529, 975 S.W. 2d 843 (1998) demonstrates in a brief fashion his command.

I personally know Leon to be scrupulously fair and faithful to the established law. I suspect he will be criticized by some because of his involvement in pro-life litigation. However, let me provide a personal illustration of his fairness and balance. In 1982 Leon was on the Law School's National Moot Court Team. The issue involved abortion. To the shock of all competitors, his brief was a direct attack on Roe v. Wade. But when I accompanied Leon to San Francisco for the arguments, I heard him argue both positions. He was vigorous in his own position, attacking Roe. But when assigned to the opposing position, he has just as forceful, balanced, vigorous and articulate.

Leon will not be merely a fine and fair federal judge. He will truly be outstanding. The nation will be exceedingly well served by his nomination.

Sincerely,

Howard W Brill

Howard W. Brill

HWB/ji

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GEORGE G. COLLINS
CHRISTOPHER BARGIONE
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JAMES J. LESNEISTER
OF COUNSEL
THERESA M. GRONKIEWICZ

March 6, 2003

United States Senator Richard Durbin
Member Senate Committee on the Judiciary
230 South Dearborn Street
Suite 3892
Chicago, Illinois 60604

RE: Nomination of Leon Holmes, Esq. to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas

Dear Senator Durbin:

I ask you to support the confirmation of Leon Holmes as Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

Leon Holmes was my opponent in a hotly contested case in my home state of Arkansas. I am confident that he is a good lawyer and will make a good Judge.

Leon Holmes is one of the most respected Catholic layman in Arkansas. As a parent of children in St. Ignatius I appreciate the work he has done in Arkansas for Catholic education.

I hope you will not oppose him because of his Republican affiliations. While I do not agree with his party, Leon Holmes, as a Judge, will not be a "Republican". I believe that he will be just a Judge, deciding cases and their merits.

I hope that you can support Leon Holmes with your favorable vote.

Sincerely,

George Collins

GBC:jp

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
500 W. CAPITOL, ROOM 423
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201-3325
(501) 604-5140
Facsimile (501) 604-5149

BILL WILSON
JUDGE

March 19, 2003

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

BY FAX - 202-224-2417

Re: Leon Holmes

Dear Senator Kennedy:

Mr. Holmes has been nominated for a federal district judgeship here in the Eastern District of Arkansas.

I have known Mr. Holmes for a long time. He is a top-flight lawyer, gentleman, and citizen.

I understand that Mr. Holmes will be before the Committee on the Judiciary next week, and I urge you to support him.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Cordially,

Wm. R. Wilson, Jr.

cc: The Honorable Richard Stearns

Rieves, Rubens & Mayton

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Eric Newkirk
David C. Jones

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Licensed Only In Tennessee**

March 21, 2003

VIA TELECOPIER
202/228-1698

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United State Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

VIA TELECOPIER
202/224-9516

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the
Judiciary United State Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of J. Leon Holmes

Senators:

I have been advised that your committee takes up the nomination of Leon Holmes to serve as a district court judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. I cannot think of anyone who is better qualified legally or ethically to so serve. I have told an investigator who called me that I have litigated with and against Leon for a number of years, and as a result I would shoot dice with him over the telephone.

Unfortunately the practice of law has deteriorated to the point where it is prudent to memorialize everything in writing with most lawyers. This has not been the case with Leon, and his memory has never failed him when he has had to honor an oral commitment to me.

I am sure that there will be those who seek to block his confirmation because of his personal views. That would be a mistake. I was privileged to represent a litigant who struck down the abortion statutes here in Arkansas after Roe and Doe

Rieves, Rubens & Mayton

were decided. See Smith v. Bentley, 493 F. Supp. 916 (E.D. Ark. 1980). There is no one who will argue that my views are anything other than pro choice.

I am as confident at Brett Maverick holding five aces that the only people who will be disappointed by his confirmation will be those folks who believe that Leon Holmes could raise his right hand, take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and then set his views over the Constitution and the decisions of the Supreme Court construing it.

Leon Holmes will not set himself up as superior to the Constitution, and I have every belief that his confirmation will not embarrass any member of your committee. As someone who has represented the pro choice view and holds the pro choice view, I ask that you urge your members to support his confirmation.

Very truly yours,

RIEVES, RUBENS & MAYTON

Kent J. Rubens

KJR/bm

cc: Office of Legal Policy (via telecopier / 202-514-5715)

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ROXANNE T. WILSON (1947-1992)
STEPHEN ENGSTROM +
GARY D. CORUM
NATE COULTER
SHIRLEY JONES

+ ALSO ADMITTED TO PRACTICE IN ALASKA

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March 24, 2003

Re: Mr. Leon Holmes -- Little Rock, Arkansas

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Via Facsimile--202-228-1698

Dear Chairman Hatch:

It is my understanding that Mr. Leon Holmes will appear before the Committee on the Judiciary this week.

I heartily commend Mr. Holmes to you. He is an outstanding lawyer and a man of excellent character.

Leon Holmes and I differ on political and personal issues such as pro-choice/anti-abortion. I am a past board member of our local Planned Parenthood chapter and have been a trial lawyer in Arkansas for over twenty-five years. Regardless of our personal differences on some issue, I am confident that Leon Holmes will do his duty as the law and facts of any given case require.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen Engstrom

SE/mk
cc: Office of Legal Policy

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+ ALSO ADMITTED TO PRACTICE IN ALASKA

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March 24, 2003

Re: Mr. Leon Holmes -- Little Rock, Arkansas

Via Facsimile—202-224-9516

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

It is my understanding that Mr. Leon Holmes will appear before the Committee on the Judiciary this week.

I heartily commend Mr. Holmes to you. He is an outstanding lawyer and a man of excellent character.

Leon Holmes and I differ on political and personal issues such as pro-choice/anti-abortion. I am a past board member of our local Planned Parenthood chapter and have been a trial lawyer in Arkansas for over twenty-five years. Regardless of our personal differences on some issue, I am confident that Leon Holmes will do his duty as the law and facts of any given case require.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen Engstrom

SE/mk
cc: Office of Legal Policy

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March 24, 2003

Re: Mr. Leon Holmes – Little Rock, Arkansas

Via Facsimile--202-228-1698

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch:

It is my understanding that Mr. Leon Holmes will appear before the Committee on the Judiciary this week.

I heartily commend Mr. Holmes to you. He is an outstanding lawyer and a man of excellent character.

Leon Holmes and I differ on political and personal issues such as pro-choice/anti-abortion. I am a past board member of our local Planned Parenthood chapter and have been a trial lawyer in Arkansas for over twenty-five years. Regardless of our personal differences on some issue, I am confident that Leon Holmes will do his duty as the law and facts of any given case require.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen Engstrom

SE/mk
cc: Office of Legal Policy

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SINCE 1953,
TRADITION OF AGGRESSIVE,
CREATIVE AND ETHICAL
REPRESENTATION.

March 24, 2003

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: My Support for the Appointment of Leon Holmes

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am a female attorney in Little Rock Arkansas, I am a life-long democrat and am also pro-choice. It is my understanding that Mr. Holmes will appear before the Committee on the Judiciary this week. **I commend Mr. Holmes to you. He is a brilliant man, a great lawyer and a fine person.**

I am the daughter of the late U.S. District Judge Henry Woods. I can assure you that my father shared my beliefs with respect to Mr. Holmes. Moreover, I was a former Administrative Law Judge with the Arkansas Workers Compensation Commission, who was fired due to what were believed to be my "liberal" opinions. I sued the state of Arkansas. Mr. Holmes defended the state—in other words, he was "on the other side." The case eventually settled. Mr. Holmes conducted himself in the most professional and ethical manner throughout my case. I gained a great respect for him throughout the course of the litigation.

One of my father's favorite quotes from the Bible, which he used in his closing arguments on numerous occasions was, "Let Justice run down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream." It is my firm belief that Mr. Holmes is a just and righteous man who deserves the appointment to the Federal Bench. If you have any questions about Mr. Holmes, do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Eileen Woods Harrison

CC: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen, Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20410

VIA FAX: (202) 224-9516

Office of Legal Policy

VIA FAX (202) 514-5715

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OF COUNSEL:
SIDNEY S. McMATH

HENRY WOODS (1918-2002)

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

To : Office of Legal Policy

Fax No. : (202) 514-5715

No. of Pages: 3 including cover

Date : March 24, 2003

From : Eileen Harrison

Re : Support for Leon Holmes

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March 24, 2003

Honorable Patrick J. Leahy via facsimile 202-224-9516
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

ATTN: Leahy Nomination Staff

Re: Leon Holmes, Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Senator Leahy:

It is my understanding that Mr. Holmes will appear before the Committee on the Judiciary this week.

I heartily recommend Mr. Holmes to you. He is an outstanding lawyer and a fine person.

While he and I differ dramatically on the pro-choice/pro-life issue, I am fully confident he will do his duty as the law and facts of a given case require.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cathi Compton

Cathleen V. Compton

CVC/la

Signed by Secretary To Avoid Delay in Mailing

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March 24, 2003

Honorable Orrin G. Hatch via facsimile 202-228-1698
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

ATTN: Hatch Nomination Staff

Re: Leon Holmes, Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It is my understanding that Mr. Holmes will appear before the Committee on the Judiciary this week.

I heartily recommend Mr. Holmes to you. He is an outstanding lawyer and a fine person.

While he and I differ dramatically on the pro-choice/pro-life issue, I am fully confident he will do his duty as the law and facts of a given case require.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cathi Compton

Cathleen V. Compton

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March 24, 2003

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

RE: Leon Holmes, Esquire, Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I understand that Leon Holmes is to appear before the Committee on the Judiciary this week.

I am proud to be a Democrat. I am also proud to recommend Leon Holmes as a federal district judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, even though he and I disagree on issues, including a woman's right to choose whether to bear a child.

It is my position that there is *always* a choice. It is just a matter of whether the government or the woman to give birth is vested with the legal power to make the choice—a choice which is, unfortunately, too often between bad or worse and not bad or good.

I believe that it should be the woman's choice, and not the government's. But regardless of who makes the choice, the government should assure that all children who are born into this great country have enough to eat, and proper medical care. (The Governor of my State, who is strongly against choice, has announced that poor children in Arkansas may lose their prescription drug coverage under Medicaid because it costs too much. If only all those who are "pro-life" were also "pro-child.")

I support Leon Holmes because he is not only a bright legal mind, but also because he is a good person who believes that our nation will be judged by the care it affords the least and the littlest in our society. I am not troubled that he is personally opposed to abortion. Mr. Holmes is shot through with integrity. He will, I believe, uphold and apply the law with the utmost care and diligence.

Cordially yours,

Beth M. Deere

BMD/dkc

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March 25, 2003

Re: Mr. Leon Holmes -- Little Rock, Arkansas

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Via Facsimile-202-228-1698

Dear Chairman Hatch:

I understand that Mr. Leon Holmes will appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee later this week. With that in mind, I am writing to endorse enthusiastically Mr. Holmes' nomination to the federal district court. Leon is an outstanding lawyer and will make an excellent trial judge.

You should know that my political views and party affiliation differ from Leon's. I have run for statewide office in Arkansas as the Democratic nominee and I suspect that Leon and I would not agree on a number of important issues. Those differences do not affect my very high regard for his character and professionalism.

I have practiced law here for almost 18 years. Over the past five years, Leon and I have been opposite each other in at least six lawsuits that currently come to mind. My experiences with Leon in those cases leave me confident about his intellectual fitness and his integrity. I am sure that as a judge Leon Holmes will render decisions based on his understanding of the law and facts presented by each case before him.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nate Coulter

NC/rcp
cc: Office of Legal Policy

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March 25, 2003

Re: Mr. Leon Holmes -- Little Rock, Arkansas

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Via Facsimile-202-224-9516

Dear Senator Leahy:

I understand that Mr. Leon Holmes will appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee later this week. With that in mind, I am writing to endorse enthusiastically Mr. Holmes' nomination to the federal district court. Leon is an outstanding lawyer and will make an excellent trial judge.

You should know that my political views and party affiliation differ from Leon's. I have run for statewide office in Arkansas as the Democratic nominee and I suspect that Leon and I would not agree on a number of important issues. Those differences do not affect my very high regard for his character and professionalism.

I have practiced law here for almost 18 years. Over the past five years, Leon and I have been opposite each other in at least six lawsuits that currently come to mind. My experiences with Leon in those cases leave me confident about his intellectual fitness and his integrity. I am sure that as a judge Leon Holmes will render decisions based on his understanding of the law and facts presented by each case before him.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nate Coulter

NC/rep
cc: Office of Legal Policy

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March 25, 2003

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter is to express my support for the nomination of Leon Holmes of Arkansas for the United States District Court for the Eastern District. I understand that a hearing on his nomination has been scheduled for later this week.

I practiced law with Mr. Holmes for many years until he withdrew from our firm two years ago. I believe that he is superbly qualified for the position for which he has been nominated. He is a scholar first, and he has had broad experience in federal court. He is a person of rock-solid integrity and sterling character. He is compassionate and even-handed. He has an innate sense of fairness. He is temperamentally suited for the bench. He works with dispatch. In short, he has all of the qualities that one would hope to find in a federal judge, and seldom are they found in a person so amiable and with his degree of genuine humility.

Mr. Holmes has the respect of the trial bar in Arkansas. His appointment would be warmly received in this state. I commend him to your favorable attention.

Cordially yours,

Philip S. Anderson

PSA/jm

cc via facsimile: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Mr. Mark Chenoweth
Office of Legal Policy
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

WILLIAMS & ANDERSON LLP
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DATE: March 25, 2003

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TO: Mr. Mark Chenoweth
Office of Legal Policy
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

TELECOPIER NUMBER: (202) 514-5715

FROM: Philip S. Anderson

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April 8, 2003

Via Facsimile
(202) 228-1698

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: J. Leon Holmes
Nominee for United States District Court Judge,
Eastern District of Arkansas

Dear Chairman Hatch:

I am writing on behalf of Leon Holmes, who has been nominated for United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

I am a lawyer, a new mother, a registered Democrat, and Leon's law partner. After completing law school, I clerked for two years for the Honorable Susan Webber Wright, United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. In August 1998, after completing my clerkship, I entered private practice. I have practiced law, and been friends, with Leon since.

Leon has trained me in the practice of law and now, as my partner, works with me on several matters. His office has been next to mine at the firm for approximately two years. During that time, I worked with Leon as an expectant mother and now work with him as a new mother. Leon's daughters babysit my eleven-month-old son.

I value Leon's input, not only on work-related matters but also on personal matters. I have sought him out for advice on a number of issues. Although Leon and I do not always see eye-to-eye, I respect him and trust his judgment. Above all, he is fair.

While working with Leon, I have observed him interact with various people. He treats all people, regardless of gender, station in life, or circumstance, with the same respect and dignity. He has always been supportive of me in my law practice, as well as supportive of the other women in our firm. Gender has never been an issue in any decision in the firm.

I clerked for a great federal district court judge, and I appear before federal judges regularly in my practice. Leon has the intellect, demeanor, temperament, and ability to be a great federal district court judge. I wholeheartedly support his nomination.

Respectfully,

Kris Baker

Kristine G. Baker

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Via Facsimile: (202) 224-9516

cc: The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
313 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Via Facsimile: (202) 228-3027

cc: Office of Legal Policy
Via Facsimile: (202) 514-5715

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DATE: April 8, 2003

TO: U.S. Justice Department
Office of Legal Policy

TELECOPIER NUMBER: (202) 514-5715

FROM: Kristine G. Baker

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Vickery & Carroll, PLC

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rcarroll@southarklaw.com

Ian W. Vickery
Robin J. Carroll

Kathy A. Sullivan - Paralegal

April 8, 2003

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

VIA FACSIMILE & U.S. MAIL

Re: Judicial Nomination of Leon Holmes, Eastern District of Arkansas

Dear Chairman Hatch,

I am writing to urge the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to approve the nomination of Mr. Leon Holmes to the federal bench in the Eastern District of Arkansas. As Legal Counsel to the Democratic Party of Arkansas, I have tried several cases with Mr. Holmes. Without hesitation I can tell you Mr. Holmes is a brilliant and ethical lawyer. There is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Holmes would be a fair and impartial judge and do honor to the bench. His career has established his ability to competently and effectively represent clients on causes both conservative and liberal.

It would be a shame to place Mr. Holmes in a box for some of his prior causes and a further shame if his nomination is not approved. As someone who may very well practice in his court, I have no reservations about Mr. Holmes ability to be fair and impartial on any issue.

If I may be of further assistance on this matter please let me know.

Best Wishes,

Robin J. Carroll

Robin J. Carroll

RJC/ks

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Office of Legal Policy (via fax 202-514-5715)

Facsimile

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Kathy A. Sullivan – Paralegal

Ian W. Vickery
Robin J. Carroll

To:	Office of Legal Policy	**Fax:**	202-514-5715
From:	Robin J. Carroll	**Date:**	4-8-03
Re:	Judicial Nomination of Leon Holmes, Eastern District of Arkansas	**Pages:**	3

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JEANNE L. SEEWALD

(b)(6)

239-598-1221 (office)
(b)(6) **(home)**
jseewald@fowlerwhite.com

April 8, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE ONLY TO: 202-228-1698

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of J. Leon Holmes as United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas

Dear Senator Hatch:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to write this letter in support of the nomination of J. Leon Holmes as United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. I have known Leon for ten (10) years and, during that time, he has been a colleague, partner and mentor. I wholeheartedly champion his appointment to the federal bench.

I have been practicing law in Naples, Florida, for the past three (3) years and currently am a shareholder with the law firm of Fowler White Boggs Banker, one of the largest firms in the State of Florida. In August, I will assume the position of President of the Collier County Women's Bar Association.

I attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law and graduated in 1992 with honors. I was executive editor of the *UALR Law Journal* in 1991-1992 and was chosen as the Outstanding Woman Law Graduate of 1992. Upon graduation from law school, I joined the Williams & Anderson law firm in Little Rock as an associate. I was named a partner in the firm in 1996 and practiced there until moving to Florida with my husband in 1999.

During my seven (7) years at Williams & Anderson, I worked very closely with Leon. We were in contact on a daily basis and handled many cases together. We worked on many matters as part of a litigation team composed of myself, Leon and Philip Anderson, President of the American Bar Association in 1998. Phil served as the senior partner, Leon as the partner in charge of the litigation and myself as associate and, later, junior partner. I also tried a number of

cases with Leon in which I acted as second chair. In this manner, I toiled many long hours under stressful circumstances with Leon and always found him to be respectful, courteous and supportive. I was the first female associate to be named as a partner at Williams & Anderson. Leon was a strong proponent of my election to the partnership and, subsequently, encouraged and supported my career advancement, as well as the advancement of other women within the firm.

My work with Leon was one of the most educational and rewarding experiences of my law career. Leon is a gentleman and a scholar. He has been a faithful mentor to me over the years. His ethics are beyond reproach. I often have turned to him for advice. I value his counsel, as I have had the opportunity to observe his thoughtful and brilliant analysis of issues.

As a colleague, Leon treated me in an equitable and respectful manner. I always have found him supportive of my career and believe he is very supportive of women in general. Leon and I have different political views; however, I know him to be a fair and just person and have complete trust in his ability to put aside any personal political views and apply the law in a thoughtful and equitable manner. As a proponent of a woman's right to choose, I also sincerely believe that Leon diligently will apply the law and that his personal beliefs will not enter into his decisions on the bench. I truly am confident that regardless of the issue before him, Leon thoroughly will analyze the situation and apply the law to the facts in a fair and unbiased manner.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to support the nomination of J. Leon Holmes to the federal bench.

Cordially yours,

Jeanne L. Seewald

Jeanne L. Seewald

cc: The Honorable Charles E. Schumer (via facsimile only to: 202-228-3027)
United States Senate
313 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy (via facsimile only to: 202-224-9516)
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Office of Legal Policy (via facsimile only to: 202-514-5715)
U.S. Department of Justice

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Fax: 202-514-5715

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From: Jeanne L. Seewald

Date: April 8, 2003

Message:

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SHALA J. ESPINA+±

+OF COUNSEL
*ALSO ADMITTED IN OKLAHOMA
^ALSO ADMITTED IN D.C.
±ALSO ADMITTED IN FLORIDA

G. C. HARDIN (1884-1994)
P. H. HARDIN (1925-2000)

Writer's Direct E-Mail:
jesson@hardinlaw.com

April 9, 2003

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
225 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Leon Holmes, Nominee for United States District Judge
Eastern District of Arkansas

Dear Chairman Hatch:

Leon Holmes of Little Rock has been nominated by the President as the United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas. My opinion is this is one of the best judicial selections that President Bush has made.

Over the past twenty years or so, I have been involved with Leon in a number of cases. In some we were on the same side. In others we were on opposing sides. No matter what the legal setting Leon was not only the best prepared lawyer around but also the most courteous and professional. During my brief tenure as Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court Leon participated in several appeals. He won some and lost others. His legal work was among the very best I observed. I recognize that his nomination will unfortunately bring some opposition due to his high profile in the abortion controversy. This is an issue on which Leon and I frankly disagree but I do not believe his personal feelings on the issue should preclude his confirmation. He will follow the law, and that is what being a judge should be about. I urge your support of his nomination.

Very truly yours,

Bradley D. Jesson

BDJ:jc
cc: Honorable Patrick J. Leahy

bc: Leon Holmes, Esq. (501) 379-1701

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DATE: April 9, 2003

TO: Sheila Joy
USDOJ - OLP
FAX NO. (202) 514-2424

FROM: Leon Holmes

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SUPPLEMENTAL MESSAGE

Another letter.

PERSON TO CONTACT IF ALL PAGES NOT RECEIVED: Lisa Cox at (501) 379-1709

Charles L. Schlumberger

(b)(6)

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am a Democrat, I am pro-choice, and I support gender equality. And I wholeheartedly, and without reservation, **support** the nomination of **Leon Holmes** to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

I have practiced law for over 23 years, and I know Mr. Holmes both personally and professionally. If ever there was an individual fully qualified to serve on the federal bench, it is Mr. Holmes. I am fully aware of his personal opinions and beliefs; I have never known anyone of any maturity and intelligence who did not develop their own views and positions on issues of importance. I am confident that Mr. Holmes will uphold his duty as a jurist to follow the rule of law, without bias or deference to his personal convictions. Moreover, I am equally confident that, should he ever be confronted with a case in which there might be any question regarding his ability to judge it impartially, Mr. Holmes will step aside from that case.

Leon Holmes is a man of keen intellect and unquestionable integrity – a person whom Arkansans and this country direly need in such a position. I urge you and the other respected members of the committee to avoid confusing principle with politics and to swiftly approve his nomination. Your efforts and attention are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Charles L. Schlumberger

cc: Office of Legal Policy

Charles L. Schlumberger

(b)(6)

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

I am a Democrat, I am pro-choice, and I support gender equality. And I wholeheartedly, and without reservation, **support** the nomination of **Leon Holmes** to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

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Leon Holmes is a man of keen intellect and unquestionable integrity – a person whom Arkansans and this country direly need in such a position. I urge you and the other respected members of the committee to avoid confusing principle with politics and to swiftly approve his nomination. Your efforts and attention are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Charles L. Schlumberger

cc: Office of Legal Policy

SUSAN HOLMES

(b)(6)

April 21, 2003

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: J. Leon Holmes

Dear Senator Hatch:

I read the questions and comments from some of the Senators on the Judiciary Committee attacking Leon Holmes' character because of an article he and I co-wrote. Some have suggested that in this article we advocated that women should be subservient to their husbands. Nothing could be further from the truth. I felt compelled to write because these allegations, by inference, also call my character into question.

I assure you I have never considered myself subservient to anyone. I am the co-author of the article "Gender Neutral Language." The article is a product of my Bible study over the many years of my marriage. It should be noted that immediately preceding the verses in Ephesians 5 where wives are instructed to be submissive to their husbands, all Christians, male and female, are told to "be submissive to one another." The article was published in a Catholic newspaper where the readership should be familiar with this passage. The article was not intended as a how-to manual for wives but to point out the symbolic use of the language used in Scripture and prompt a discussion on the effects on theology of trying to gender-neutralize the language used in church. The article also explicitly points out that everyone, male and female, comes to God in an equal relationship. It has no application to anyone who is not attempting to follow the Catholic/Christian faith. I would be more than willing to explain it to anyone who wished to discuss it with me.

Leon and I have had a wonderful marriage for 31 years. We have five children. I have worked outside the home and chosen not to work outside the home at different times. Leon has always been supportive of me as a person in whatever I have chosen to do.

We are a team and have worked as a team that mutually respects each other. When Leon desired to quit law school in 1975 and pursue a Master's Degree, he asked my permission before applying to graduate programs. When he wanted to continue on to the Ph.D. level, he again asked me for my permission before applying to Duke. Obviously, from his resume, I agreed.

I have a B.A. in journalism from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. I have worked as an editorial assistant at Duke University, a correspondent for the Moline Dispatch in Moline, IL, and the Springdale News in Springdale, AR. I also worked as the town reporter for the Lonoke Democrat in Lonoke, AR.

In 1985, when I wished to quit working outside the home and devote my time to my family and personal interests, Leon was similarly supportive of me. While we now have what looks like a "traditional" – man working, woman at home – marriage, there is no rigidity to our marriage. I am the one who fixes the plumbing, installs fans, builds fences, and does the carpentry work, as well as doing traditional home work. Leon has cooked his share of meals, washed dishes, done laundry and changed numerous diapers.

Leon's personal and religious beliefs both center first on the value of each and every person; regardless of gender, age, race, abilities, faith, economic status, education, or any other category. He does not simply treat everyone with respect, he truly does respect everyone. That is the quality that makes him a great candidate to be a judge. That is the reason people in Arkansas on all sides of issues respect him.

Sincerely,

Susan Holmes

Susan Holmes

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

R. MARGARET DOBSON

Attorney at Law

Dobson Law Firm, P.A.
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April 23, 2003

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Leon Holmes
Nominee for United States District Judge
Eastern District of Arkansas

Dear Chairman Hatch:

I have read statements and media reports regarding the nomination of Leon Holmes to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. I write as someone who knows Leon Holmes well, to correct the misimpression. The suggestion that Leon Holmes views women as somehow inferior to men could not be further from the truth. I have met no man who respects women more.

It is unfortunate that our society is so quick to make decisions on soundbites of information. Yet, that is exactly what we are in danger of doing with Leon Holmes. Comments that he has made, political or religious views that he has expressed, some of them decades ago, have been taken out of context and misunderstood. They have nothing to do with his ability to serve as a judge.

I have observed Leon Holmes in his relationship with his wife. He is married to my sister Susan, and I can assure you that she is not a wallflower. I can further assure you that he listens to her, he respects her opinions and advice, and he loves and respects her as a person.

In 1994, my husband and I returned to Arkansas after living in West Virginia for several years, and I began working as a paralegal for one of the partners the law firm where Leon Holmes worked. This gave me the privilege of being able to observe Leon in a professional, non-family setting. I was impressed from day one with the respect that Leon received in the office.

One of the first things that I noticed about Leon was that he treated everyone, male or female, attorney or staff, with the utmost respect. He made no differentiation based on race, gender, economic status, or political influence. I also observed that when anyone, attorney or staff, male or female, had an ethical dilemma, they sought out Leon's counsel.

One of the female partners, with whom I forged a friendship, told me that despite their political differences, she considered Leon as her mentor. He was the partner who had most supported her career growth and her rise to the level of partner. He is the one whose advice she sought in dealing with, surviving in, and succeeding in the legal profession.

After working several years as a paralegal, I agonized over the decision of whether I should attend law school. I, as did so many others at the law firm, consulted with Leon. He encouraged and supported me in my decision. I left the firm and went to law school.

Leon continued to encourage and assist me through law school. In my third year of law school, my husband and I were surprised and blessed to have a child. I was concerned about how to make everything work, but Leon and Susan saved me. They took care of my son during classes and while I was studying. They assured me that I could survive; encouraging me and helping me balance my work career and my family life. Their assistance made my last year of law school possible. I graduated second in my class, served on the Editorial Board of the Law Review, and secured a federal judicial clerkship upon graduation.

After two years of clerking for the Honorable William R. Wilson, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, I again consulted with Leon Holmes regarding my career, and ultimately decided to open my own law office. Leon encouraged me and offered his assistance in any way I needed it. I am now in my second year of practice and have been extremely blessed in my business. I have frequently contacted Leon with "new lawyer" questions, seeking his advice and experience, and he has given me his time and assistance without hesitation.

So, as you can see, Leon has both encouraged and assisted me and other women in furthering our careers. This behavior certainly does not match that of the characterization that has been painted in the media.

In my clerkship at the United States District Court, I was privileged to visit with many of the Judges and Magistrates. Many of the Judges with whom I worked and spoke were Democratic appointees. Without fail, they each indicated to me that they thought Leon would be an excellent addition to the bench and they hoped that he would be considered for a position. This support is particularly impressive because much of it came from individuals who knew Leon's political views and personally disagreed with those views. But they had watched him practice and they knew that he would be fair and honest and diligent. They knew that as a judge he would follow the laws, that he would study the laws and the precedents, and that he would make thoughtful and well reasoned decisions. They respected him and hoped to be his colleagues.

I hope and pray that you will look beyond the soundbites and political agendas, and look at the quality of work that can be expected. Leon Holmes is respected by all in the Arkansas legal community, both liberal and conservative, Democrat and Republican alike, as a lawyer of impeccable morals, unquestionable ethics, and supreme intelligence. He would be a great asset to the bench.

If you have any questions, or desire any further information from me, I would be happy to visit with you personally.

Sincerely,

R. Margaret Dobson

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Office of Legal Policy

JEFF ROSENZWEIG
Attorney at Law

300 Spring Building, Suite 310
Third & Spring Streets
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Telephone (501) 372-5247
FAX (501) 375-0067
jrosenzweig@worldnet.att.net

April 25, 2003

Hon. Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Leon Holmes

Dear Senator Hatch:

I am writing this letter in wholehearted support of the nomination of Leon Holmes as a federal district judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

First, I should identify myself. I am a criminal defense lawyer in Little Rock. I am a former president of the Arkansas Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (1989-91). I have long been active in both the Arkansas chapter of the ACLU and the anti-death penalty movement, both here in Arkansas and nationally. I consider myself politically to be a libertarian Democrat.

I have known Leon Holmes for some twenty years. I have the highest regard for Mr. Holmes both professionally and personally. He is a person of the highest character, intelligence and judgment. He has been an outstanding advocate and, if confirmed, will be an outstanding judge. If there is any person in the world who will apply the law without regard to what his personal beliefs might be, that person is Leon Holmes.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Jeff Rosenzweig

JR/jm
cc:
Hon. Patrick Leahy
Hon. Blanche Lincoln
Hon. Mark Pryor

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

Facsimile
Cover Sheet

Phone: (202) 456-7900
Fax: (202) 456-1647

Date: _____
Time: _____

To: _____

Fax: ~~334-5248~~ 334-5269

From: BRETT KAVANAUGH

Number of Pages: 15

Message:

_____

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
600 W. CAPITOL, ROOM 423
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201-3325
(501) 604-5140
Facsimile (501) 604-5149

BILL WILSON
JUDGE

April 25, 2003

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

BY FAX - 202-224-6331

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

BY FAX - 202-224-3479

RE: Nomination of Leon Holmes as a District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas

Dear Senators:

Senator Pryor has asked me to express my view regarding the above.

When news of Mr. Holmes' nomination was released, I called him and told him I would come out fer him or agin him, whichever one he thought would do the most good.

Since I was sworn in on October 1, 1993, all of my opinions have been, of course, moderate, down-the-middle, objective, and non-partisan; but, prior to that, I was a New Deal, New Frontier, Great Society Democrat, and unabashedly so.

Despite different political and religious backgrounds, I have come to greatly admire Mr. Holmes. Obviously he has made some statements, particularly in his youth, with which I disagree. I am satisfied, however, that he would handle each case that came before him with detached objectivity, despite his personal or religious views.

One of the best district judges in America presides here in the Eastern District of Arkansas. He led the fight against the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, and still has as much use for them as a goat has for a butcher knife. Nonetheless, he regularly applies the guidelines with the highest sense of integrity, despite his deep and abiding dislike of them. This is a standard for all judges, for we regularly must apply laws with which we disagree to some extent or another. I am satisfied beyond peradventure that Leon Holmes would do this.

I know that those of us in the legal profession tend to write letters that are too long -- particularly to busy legislators. Nonetheless, I feel compelled to relate an experience I had with Mr. Holmes since I have been on the bench. A minority inmate in our state penitentiary filed a civil rights suit alleging abuse by officials. I denied his request for the appointment of a lawyer, and the case was tried before a jury. The plaintiff lost. During the trial, however, I became convinced that I had made a mistake in refusing to appoint a lawyer. Through my staff, I contacted Mr. Holmes and asked if he would be willing to accept an appointment to represent the plaintiff to determine if I had the authority to grant a new trial because I had failed to appoint a lawyer when I should have. He readily accepted the case, filed a superb brief and convinced me that I not only had the authority to set the verdict aside, but that I should. He then continued to represent the plaintiff and reached a settlement with the defendants. I have never asked lawyers to disclose settlement terms to me before, but my curiosity compelled me to call Mr. Holmes and find out about this one. He had obtained several thousand dollars for his client, and had not charged a dime in fees.

I have seen Leon Holmes in action on several other occasions, and he is a top-flight lawyer with the nicest sense of personal honor. I believe this to be his reputation with almost all of the legal profession in Arkansas.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Cordially,

Bill W.

Wm. R. Wilson, Jr.

cc: The Honorable Blanche Lambert Lincoln
The Honorable Mark Pryor

FAX COVER SHEET

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

Telephone 501-604-5140
Fax Number 501-604-5149

TO: Mark Chenoweth **DATE:** 4/25/03

FAX NO.: 202-514-5715

There are 3 pages, including this Cover Sheet, being sent by this facsimile transmission.

MESSAGE SENT BY:

Office of Judge Wm. R. Wilson, Jr.
U. S. District Court
600 West Capitol, Room 423
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Direct Phone Numbers:

Christy Conrad, LRSD Law Clerk	**604-5141**
Janet Pulliam, Law Clerk (odd case numbers)	**604-5142**
Caroline Curry, (even case numbers)	**604-5148**
Mary Johnson, Courtroom Deputy	**604-5144**
Christa Newburg, Court Reporter	**604-5145**

STATE OF ARKANSAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State Capitol
Little Rock 72201

Mike Huckabee
Governor

April 28, 2003

Via Facsimile (202) 228-1229

The Honorable Arlen Specter
United States Senate
711 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: J. Leon Holmes

Dear Senator Specter:

I write to urge you to support the confirmation of J. Leon Holmes to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. Mr. Holmes is one of the preeminent lawyers in the State of Arkansas. He is widely respected by Republicans and Democrats alike.

On the day that I was to be sworn in as Governor, we had a constitutional crisis because the outgoing governor, who had previously announced his resignation, at the last minute decided that he would not resign. I immediately asked my staff to call the best and most respected Constitutional lawyer in the state. Everyone agreed that person was Leon Holmes. Mr. Holmes left his office immediately, came to the capitol, and assisted in counseling us through the constitutional crisis. I have called on him several other times when the state was faced with monumental legal questions. His opinion is the gold standard among attorneys.

I have personally known Leon Holmes for almost 20 years. I know that he will be an outstanding judge. He will bring honor to the judiciary, to the State of Arkansas, and to all who supported his nomination and confirmation.

I am pleased that Senators Lincoln and Pryor support Mr. Holmes' confirmation. I hope you will join them and work toward Mr. Holmes' confirmation.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Huckabee

Mike Huckabee

State Capitol Building, Suite 250 • Little Rock, AR 72201 • mike.huckabee@state.ar.us
501-682-2345 • Fax 501-682-1382 • TDD 501-682-7515

State Of Arkansas
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

State Capitol
Little Rock 72201

FAX TRANSMITTAL
FAX NUMBER 501.682.1736
OFFICE NUMBER 501.682.3688

DATE: *4/28/03*

): *Department of Justice*

Office of Legal Policy

FAX#: *202.514.5715*

FROM: *Betty C. Dickey*
Chief Legal Counsel

We are sending a 2 - page transmission (including this page). If you do not receive all pages, please call Erica Hoggard at 501.682.3613.

OPPENHEIM
A division of BOSC, Inc.

April 29, 2003

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch:

I am writing this letter to you in support of the appointment of Mr. Leon Holmes as a federal district judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

I have known Leon both personally and professionally for over eighteen years. I have known him as a very able opposing counsel with unquestioned integrity and graciousness. I have known him as someone whose intellect and common sense I could rely on when I served as then-Governor Clinton's Chief Legal Counsel. I have also known Leon as my attorney when I recently hired him and his firm to represent me in a contracts matter. I know of no person to whom I could give a higher recommendation.

I do understand the issues that have arisen regarding Leon's past writings and activities on abortion. I am positive I know him well enough to say that I believe he will follow the law in the unlikely event he is confronted with a case involving that subject. Moreover, I have an even stronger belief that, if he remotely thought he could not judge such a case (or any other case, for that matter) in a fair and impartial manner, he would not participate. While I do not agree with him on this issue (and others), his intellect, his fairness and his integrity convince me that he will make an outstanding federal district judge. I think it is safe to say that everyone, at one time or another, has advocated a position or said things in a way that we probably would not have if we had the chance to do it all over again. I know this to be the case with Leon, and I hope your Committee and the Senate will be willing to give him the benefit of the doubt.

As I have stated previously, my political views and Leon's are quite different on many issues. However, while we may not always agree, I have always felt that Leon's skills would make him an outstanding candidate for the position for which he is being considered. I know very few others that have his unique combination of skills, which

include a willingness to listen to and consider different points of view. Those of us who know him best, both Democrats and Republicans, all agree that, if he is confirmed, we truly believe he will serve with honor, integrity and distinction.

I do appreciate your consideration of this recommendation. I would be delighted to answer any additional questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

Field K. Wasson, Jr.

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy

OPPENHEIM
A division of BOSC, Inc.

Oppenheim
4220 North Rodney Parham Road, Suite 300
Little Rock, Arkansas 72212
Phone: (501) 227-3212 Fax: (501) 227-3207

Fax

To: OFFICE OF LEGAL POLICY From: FIELD WASSON

Fax: 202-514-5770 Date: 4/29/03

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DAVID A. GRACE
E-MAIL: DGRACE@HARDINGRACE.COM
Phone extension: 12

April 30, 2003

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Via Facsimile (202) 228-1698

RE: J. Leon Holmes

Dear Chairman Hatch:

I have practiced law in Arkansas since 1976. My practice emphasis is commercial litigation, and I spend a lot of my time in federal court.

I have known Leon Holmes since we started law school together in the fall of 1973. He and I have had several cases with each other during the course of our respective legal careers. In my opinion, Leon has a powerful mind and excellent judgment. He is able to be honestly objective while analyzing a legal question. I doubt there is an attorney or judge with whom Leon has worked who would not tell you that he is among the very best and most respected lawyers in Arkansas. I cannot imagine an attorney in my state who is more qualified to be a federal trial judge.

I am very familiar with Leon's political opinions, and I disagree strongly with most of them. In all the time I have known and worked with Leon, I have never noticed a single instance when his politics have affected his analysis of a legal problem or his performance as an attorney.

Published news reports indicate that Leon's appointment is in jeopardy because of his political opinions concerning a woman's right to choose. It appears to me that many of those most qualified for appointment to the federal bench are shunted aside solely on account of political considerations. I believe this has been true for many years. I think it is wrong to balance the quality of justice at the federal trial level on the point of political give and take. In my experience, federal trial judges are given few, if any, opportunities to make policy. Consequently, the personal politics of potential federal trial judges should be given secondary consideration, at best.

Like every other Arkansas trial lawyer whose opinion has been expressed to me, I want Leon Holmes to be a federal trial judge. Please urge your fellow committee members to consider Leon's application in the same objective light in which Leon, as a trial judge, would be expected to evaluate legal issues. If that is done, the confirmation of Leon's appointment should be a forgone conclusion.

Thank you for considering my point of view.

Sincerely,

HARDIN & GRACE, P.A.

David A. Grace

DAG/llp

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Via Facsimile (202) 224-9516

Office of Legal Policy
Via Facsimile (202) 514-5715

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HELEN CARTER
OFFICE MANAGER
(501) 396-5419

May 1, 2003

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Mr. Leon Holmes, Nominee for United States District Judge, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Mr. Leon Holmes, whom I have known professionally for some ten years, is an honorable and upright lawyer with a reputation for integrity, compassion and scholarship. He would make an outstanding Federal judge.

Although we opposed each other vigorously in a particularly contentious matter some years ago involving a brain injured child's ERISA claim, Mr. Holmes persuaded his client to comply fully with discovery and worked with us to expedite the submission of the matter to the U.S. District Court for an early decision.

Contrary to the practice of a number of other insurance defense counsel, Mr. Holmes was at all times compassionate toward our client and showed him the greatest respect. Other Plaintiff's attorneys have related to me similar experiences with Mr. Holmes.

While Mr. Holmes and I are not close personally and we rest on opposite sides of the political fence, I have no doubt that he would follow the statutes and judicial precedents notwithstanding any private opinion he might have to the contrary.

I also feel that Mr. Holmes would keep his docket current and treat lawyers, jurors and court personnel with kindness and dignity.

Respectfully yours,

Sandy S. McMath

SM/abm
cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Ranking Member FAX 202-514-5715 & U.S. MAIL