

Senator LAUTENBERG. Thank you very much. It is hard to understand that Michael can be so aggressive in his pursuit of the law with such a beautiful family.

Chairman HATCH. It is kind of amazing, isn't it?

Senator LAUTENBERG. But I am pleased that President Bush has selected a distinguished New Jerseyan for this important seat on the court of appeals.

Michael Chertoff is a highly intelligent, competent lawyer. I have known him for a long time. As a matter of fact, we shared space in the same building in my first term in the Senate. He has compiled a long and impressive record of accomplishments in both the public and private sector. He distinguished himself academically as an undergraduate at Harvard University and also as a law student at Harvard.

From 1979 to 1980, he clerked for the U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., before taking a job as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in New York. As U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey from 1990 to 1994, Michael Chertoff aggressively tackled organized crime, public corruption, health care and bank fraud, and he also played a critical role in helping the New Jersey State Legislature investigate something called racial profiling, an ugly episode that came about. And I introduced the first bill in the Senate to ban racial profiling, and I am grateful to Mr. Chertoff for the interest he took in this matter at the State level.

The Third Circuit is one of the most impressive courts in the country, and based on past performance, I am confident that Mr. Chertoff will fit right in.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, sometimes I have a question about a nominee, but the fact is that there are so many qualified lawyers that President Bush can and has nominated for different circuits who enjoy broad support in the Senate, and Mr. Chertoff certainly is one such candidate.

So I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I look forward to working with you, the other Committee members, and the rest of the Senate to get Michael Chertoff confirmed as quickly as possible. We need him. He is ready to do the job.

Chairman HATCH. Well, thank you, Senator Lautenberg. That is high praise indeed, and we are so glad to have you back in the Senate.

Senator LAUTENBERG. Thank you.

Chairman HATCH. We look forward to continuing to work with you on these issues, and we are very proud of your colleague as well. We will excuse you. We know you have a Committee meeting.

Senator LAUTENBERG. Thank you.

Chairman HATCH. Senator Corzine, we are going to go to you, and then I am going to go to Senator Feinstein afterwards, after Senator Corzine. Then I will make my statement.

**PRESENTATION OF MICHAEL CHERTOFF, NOMINEE TO BE
CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT, BY HON. JON
CORZINE, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW JER-
SEY**

Senator CORZINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Committee, it is a pleasure for me to be here, as Senator Lauten-

berg, to introduce Michael Chertoff. I think he is one of the terrific people of my State and of the Nation, served our Nation well already in many, many roles. I sometimes think I should recuse myself because he is also a personal friend. I believe very much in both the quality and character of the man. I welcome his family as well.

Senator Lautenberg reviewed some of the ways that he has served our State and Nation extraordinarily ably, and I think he will do the same as a circuit judge in the important Third Circuit.

Impeccable credentials, whether it is the editor of law review, Supreme Court law clerk, U.S. Attorney, or Assistant Attorney General for criminal matters at the Justice Department, in every job he has taken on his role with great professionalism and excellence, and I am sure he will do so on the bench.

Many of us consider him New Jersey's "lawyer laureate." I will agree with that label that a number of our newspapers have placed him under. But I do want to acknowledge—and I think it is important in the context of sometimes the debates we have with regard to judges—that you can actually support and be very enthusiastic about the nomination of someone to the bench who you don't always agree with on all issues. And that is certainly the case with Mr. Chertoff. But his temperament and his commitment to precedent and his character in my mind suit well the role of an appellate judge, and I am just honored to further place his name before the Committee and ultimately in front of the Senate floor.

So I think I will leave my full statement to be placed in the record, but let it be known that this Senator thinks this is one of the finest lawyers and one of the finest legal minds we have in the country.

Chairman HATCH. Well, thank you, Senator Corzine. That is high praise, and we are honored to have you here to give this statement. I share all of your feelings with regard to Michael Chertoff and I think almost all of us do. In fact, I hope all of us do in the Senate because of the great service he has given. But thank you for taking time to be with us today. I appreciate it.

Senator FEINSTEIN, we will go to you, and then we will go to Senator Sessions, and then I will give my statement.

PRESENTATION OF CONSUELO MARIA CALLAHAN, NOMINEE TO BE CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, BY HON. DIANNE FEINSTEIN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Senator FEINSTEIN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I know that Senator Boxer has already introduced Consuelo "Connie" Callahan, so I am going to be very brief.

As you well know, she currently serves in the California State court system as an appellate judge on the State's Third District Court of Appeals. That is located in Sacramento. I think she is incredibly uncontroversial for someone coming out of our State. I always seem to see the controversy surrounding an individual. There is none here. She was born in Palo Alto. She grew up in my home area, the San Francisco Bay area. She actually attended my alma mater, Stanford. She was graduated with honors. She then attended the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. She