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VIA FAX AND U.S. MAIL

Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Christopher A. Wray

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Christopher Wray is currently before your Judiciary Committee as President Bush's nominee to be head of the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice to succeed Michael Chertoff, who has been nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Chris joined our firm in 1993 upon his graduation from Yale law school. He had a fine record at Yale and was Executive Editor of *The Yale Law Journal*. His undergraduate degree was also from Yale and he graduated *cum laude*. Chris grew up in the New York City area, but his wife happens to be from Atlanta. They now have two young children and are living in Washington.

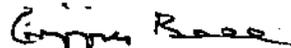
Chris was with us for four years and then was appointed an Assistant United States Attorney in Atlanta so that he could get experience as a prosecutor. He was transferred to the Department of Justice at the beginning of the current Bush Administration and became -- and still is -- the principal Deputy to the Deputy Attorney General, who, as you know, is Larry Thompson, also of Atlanta.

When Chris was at our firm, we considered him to be a rising star, and his record since then has proven that our judgment was correct. Although some might question his youthfulness as a reflection of inexperience, I can vouch that Chris has a maturity in judgment well beyond his years. I feel certain that he will do a superb job for our country as the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, and my hope is that your Committee will approve Chris Wray's nomination for the position.

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With thanks and good wishes,

Yours sincerely,


Griffin B. Bell

GBB/bk
Enclosure
cc: Honorable Patrick Leahy
(Ranking Minority Member)