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October 9, 2012

Re: Recommendations for U.S. Attorney Candidates, Northern District of Illinois

Dear Senators Durbin and Kirk,

On behalf of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to review the candidacies of the many strong individuals who applied for the position of U.S. Attorney in Chicago. The committee members have worked hard to identify four consensus candidates to recommend to you.

The four applicants recommended by the committee have certain characteristics in common that were considered important, but not controlling by the committee. All have federal prosecutorial experience. None is a career prosecutor only - each has done criminal defense work after having served as a prosecutor. It was the committee's view that the broad range of practical legal experiences of each applicant represented an important asset for a U.S. Attorney. All have good reputations in the legal community. All share the belief (though with slightly differing ordering) that the primary subject matter concerns of the office should be:

1. violence and drugs,
2. public corruption,
3. financial crimes, and
4. terrorism.

With those similarities in mind, the committee provides the following summary descriptions of the unique characteristics that led the committee to recommend them. The names are provided in alphabetical order; there is no "favorite" of the committee.

Jonathan Bunge

Jon's professional background is well suited for the position. His academic credentials are impeccable having attended two excellent institutions, Princeton University and the University of Chicago Law School, followed by clerkships on the D.C. Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. He spent nine years in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago during which time he handled a variety of matters. Since that time, he has been in private practice focusing primarily on civil litigation but has continued in public service by serving as a Special Assistant to the Illinois Attorney General's Office, helping initiate and manage a public integrity unit. The committee believes that the breadth of his experience, and the perspective gained from firm practice, give Jon a balanced approach that would serve him well as the U.S. Attorney.

Jon demonstrated in his interview that he would be a good U.S. Attorney. He has given a great deal of thought to the position of the U.S. Attorney in the next era. Jon has clearly spent a significant amount of time analyzing the priorities of the office and what he believes they should be should he get the job, recognizing the substantive areas in which the office has been

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particularly strong in recent years and also giving creative analysis to areas where a revised or different approach might help develop those areas even further. He has also given thought to other areas such as hiring and movement and promotions within the office and how those areas might be modified to make the office even stronger.

Zachary Fardon

Zach's professional background provides a solid foundation for the position. Zach spent nine years in two U.S. Attorney's Offices. He was in the Chicago office for six years during which time he focused most notably on matters in the public corruption context, which included the prosecutions of former Illinois Governor George Ryan and his Chief of Staff Scott Fawell. He also served as the First Assistant for the Middle District of Tennessee during which time, in addition to his duties as First Assistant and the large responsibility that comes with the position, he also worked on significant public corruption matters in Tennessee as well as trying the Governor Ryan case in Chicago. Zach has spent the last six years in private practice during which time he has had a focus on white collar defense work, including many internal investigations. In addition, prior to becoming a prosecutor, Zach was also an assistant public defender. The committee believes that Zach's background is very well rounded and includes experiences that would be of great benefit to the role of U.S. Attorney, particularly the time that he spent in the role as First Assistant.

Zach has a stellar reputation in the legal community. He is highly thought of across the board by prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges. Others regard him not only as someone who is a well liked, smart, solid trial lawyer with excellent judgment but, equally importantly, as someone who is very measured, even tempered, and has the ability to help mediate disagreements and reach resolution.

During his interview, Zach demonstrated that he has a genuine love for the office and is passionate about its mission and wants to again be a part of the office and the mission because he truly cares about and believes in it. He has given a great deal of thought to what the office has done well in the past and how that success can be improved upon. The committee believes that Zach's balanced, measured approach would serve him well in the position of U.S. Attorney and give him the respect of both those inside and outside the office.

Lori Lightfoot

Lori has the requisite skills and experience that make her a qualified candidate for the position. Lori attended two of the nation's top academic institutions with an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and a law degree from the University of Chicago Law School. She spent six years in the U.S. Attorney's office in Chicago where she worked on a variety of cases. For the past seven years, she has done white collar investigations, handled civil matters and done criminal defense work at Mayer Brown. Between those employments, she worked for the City of Chicago in two capacities relevant to the work of the U.S. Attorney. Several interviewees noted the need to leverage the relationship between the U.S. and local law

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enforcement partners, especially in the areas of drugs and violence. Lori spent two years as Chief Administrator of the Chicago Office of Professional Standards (OPS). That experience gave her intimate knowledge of the workings of the Chicago Police Department and many of its leaders. She visited every neighborhood in the city in connection with investigations. She also supervised a staff of over 100 people. This management experience would serve Lori well if she were selected to lead the U.S. Attorney's Office.

At her interview, Lori demonstrated a thoughtful and practical approach to the requirements of the position and the leadership needs of the office. She talked about reassessing the metrics used to measure the effectiveness of law enforcement strategy and tactics and stressed the need for the U.S. Attorney to be a good leader, and also a good listener. She has the reputation of being a fair, tough-minded, yet thoughtful, prosecutor. The committee believes that Lori's solid academic credentials, unique professional and management experiences and history of professional accomplishments make her a good candidate for the position.

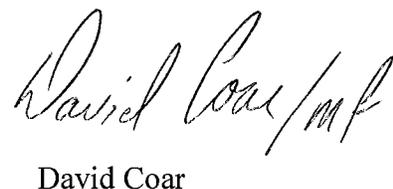
Gil Soffer

Gil is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brown University and the Harvard Law School. He served as an AUSA for six years in Chicago before becoming a partner at Katten Muchin. As an AUSA, Gil handled a wide range of criminal cases and enjoyed a reputation for fairness and intellect. At Katten, he has focused on defense work and internal corporate investigations and co-chairs the firm's white collar practice. He is a frequent lecturer and panelist on subjects related to the representation of white collar defendants and serves as a member of the statewide Illinois Executive Ethics Commission.

Gil returned to government service for one year (2008), serving in the U.S. Department of Justice as Associate Deputy Attorney General on policy matters. In this role, he participated in the development of DOJ policy including work on the guidance prosecutors use in reviewing allegations of corporate criminal misconduct. As Associate DAG, Gil traveled to U.S. Attorney offices around the country providing instruction and guidance. The committee felt that, while the Chicago office is one of the best, this exposure to practices and procedures in other offices across the country was a valuable and relevant experience that would be helpful to Gil if he were chosen as U.S. Attorney. Gil would bring a balanced thoughtful approach to the office.

Respectfully,


Mark Filip


David Coar