

August 6, 2015

The Honorable William J. Howell
Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates
106 Carter Street
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22405

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Member, Senate of Virginia
P.O. Box 620
Williamsburg, Virginia 23188

Gentlemen:

We have watched with profound dismay the actions of the last several days that indicate the intention to remove an exceptionally qualified jurist from the Supreme Court of Virginia. The appointment of Jane Marum Roush to the Supreme Court has been heralded by members of the Virginia bar, has received bipartisan legislative support, and created an overwhelmingly positive impression about lawyers who serve in the Virginia judiciary.

We understand and appreciate very much the role of the General Assembly in the judicial selection process. It is that process that in fact produced a dedicated public servant such as Justice Roush – whose distinguished service benefited the citizens of the Commonwealth – on both criminal and civil matters and across the state – from Virginia Beach to Big Stone Gap to Fairfax. She is the epitome of just – learned and fair – guided by the law and a core set of principles that reflects all Virginians.

We ask and encourage those who have been inclined not to reappoint her when the legislature reconvenes, to reconsider. Any miscommunications and political misunderstandings must not be allowed to taint respect for the Supreme Court, the career of an eminently qualified jurist, or create the impression that politics are at play in the administration of justice.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Jayne W. Barnard
VBA Executive Committee, 2010-2012

/s/


Jeanne F. Franklin
Virginia Bar Association President, 2001

/s/

M. Melissa Glassman
VBA Board of Governors, 2012-2015



Monica Taylor Monday
VBA Board of Governors, 2011-2014



Sharon D. Nelson
Virginia State Bar Association President, 2013-2014

/s/

Kathleen O'Brien
Virginia State Bar President, 1994-1995

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/s/

Lisa P. O'Donnell
Virginia Trial Lawyers Association President
2012-2013



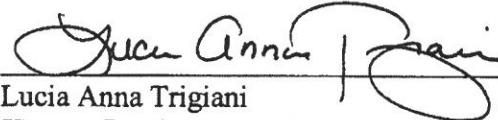
Anita O. Poston
Virginia Bar Association President, 2000



Sandra M. Rohrstaff
Virginia Trial Lawyers Association
President, 2009-2010

/s/

Mary Lynn Tate
Virginia Trial Lawyers Association President, 1991-1992



Lucia Anna Trigiani
Virginia Bar Association President, 2011

/s/

Barbara S. Williams
Virginia Women Attorneys Association President,
1999-2000
Virginia Trial Lawyers Association President, 2013-2014