

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

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COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
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SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION

February 22, 2017

The Honorable Neil Gorsuch
Byron White U.S. Courthouse
1823 Stout Street
Denver, CO 80257

Dear Judge Gorsuch,

I write to ask you to provide additional information regarding your tenure and former leadership position with the Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA).

Question 11a of the Senate Judiciary Questionnaire asks for the following information:

“List all professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations . . . to which you belong, or to which you have belonged, or in which you have participated, since graduation from law school. Provide dates of membership or participation, and indicate any office you held. ‘Participation’ means consistent or repeated involvement in a given organization, membership, or regular attendance at events or meetings. Include clubs, working groups, advisory or editorial boards, panels, committees, conferences, or publications. Describe briefly the nature and objectives of each such organization, and identify an office or other person from whom more detailed information may be obtained.”

Your response stated: “The RNLA is the principal national organization of Republican lawyers and, as I understand it, has four missions: advancing professionalism; advancing fair, open, and honest elections; advancing career opportunity; and advancing Republican ideals. To my recollection, I wrote op-ed pieces and attended meetings.” You did not identify any office held, and you only stated that your involvement was “prior to 2005.”

However, in 2006, remarking on your nomination to the Tenth Circuit, the president of the RNLA wrote the following:

“The White House and the U.S. Senate appear again to be moving forward with confirmations of the President’s nominees to the Federal bench. Among the nominees is Neil Gorsuch, former head of the RNLA Judicial Confirmation Task Force....”¹

Similarly, in endorsing your confirmation to the Supreme Court, the RNLA this year again remarked:

“Prior to his nomination to the Tenth Circuit, Judge Gorsuch ably led RNLA’s Judicial Confirmation Task Force, the predecessor of the current RNLA Communications Committee.”²

Please answer the following:

1. Please list the years you were a member of the RNLA.
2. As noted, the RNLA has indicated that you previously led its Judicial Confirmation Task Force.³
 - a. What years did you lead the Judicial Confirmation Task Force? What did your role as leader of the Task Force involve?
 - b. What years did you serve on the Judicial Confirmation Task Force?
 - c. What did the Judicial Confirmation Task Force do?
 - d. What specific judicial nominations or candidates for nomination did you review, advocate for, or advocate against as a member of the RNLA or as the leader of its Judicial Confirmation Task Force?
 - e. The RNLA’s website in 2004 stated: “The RNLA strongly supports the timely confirmation of the President’s judicial nominees, and will be issuing endorsement statements for each Court of Appeals nominee. Endorsement statements will be issued regarding all future Supreme Court nominees and selected District and special court nominees.” Did you prepare, approve, review, or otherwise consider any such statements? Please provide all of them.
3. Did you hold any other offices with the RNLA that you did not mention in your questionnaire?
4. In connection with your work with the RNLA, did you participate in or advise on any matters of public policy, including any related litigation or potential litigation? If so, please identify and describe such matters and/or litigation.
5. As mentioned earlier, in response to Question 11a, you stated that you “wrote op-ed pieces” for the RNLA. Question 12a separately asked you to list and provide copies of all published material you have written, including editorial pieces. Yet of the attachments you provided in response to Question 12a, none are identified as op-eds that you wrote in association with the RNLA.
 - a. Please identify whether any of the materials you previously provided are, in fact, RNLA op-eds.
 - b. Please provide identify and provide copies of all op-eds you authored for the RNLA that you have not previously provided, whether or not they appeared under your name.

Sincerely,



DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator

¹ Harvey Tettlebaum, *President's Message for June*, available at <http://www.rnla.org/Newsletter/ViewArticle.asp?ArticleID=192> (last visited Feb. 21, 2017).

² RNLA Statement on the Nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, available at <http://rnla.org/SCGorsuchPR.pdf> (last visited February 21, 2017).

³ The press releases also indicate that the Task Force later became the "RNLA Communications Committee." Please answer any question about the Task Force as if it is also asked about the Communications Committee.