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February 3, 2011

The Honorable Terry E. Branstad

Governor of the State of Iowa

1007 East Grand Ave.

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

RE: Nomination of Professor Angela Onwuachi-Willig to the Iowa Supreme Court

Dear Governor Branstad:

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT), we write to support enthusiastically the nomination of Angela Onwuachi-Willig to the Iowa Supreme Court. Professor Onwuachi-Willig will bring to the Supreme Court a thoughtful and well-grounded understanding of legal principles, an appreciation of the role of the judiciary in our tripartite system of government, and most importantly, a commitment to justice. Her exceptional qualities are the result of her broad experience as a lawyer: serving as a clerk for judges on both the federal district court and court of appeals; as a litigating attorney specializing in employment law with prestigious law firms in both Boston and Cleveland; and as a law professor at two highly regarded law schools, including most recently the University of Iowa College of Law. Professor Onwuachi-Willig served on the SALT Board from 2008-2010 where she demonstrated all the qualities that will make her an excellent Supreme Court Justice.

The breadth of her knowledge of the law is evidenced in her teaching and writing, which encompasses family law, employment discrimination, race and the law, women and the law, and evidence. Her recent publications have appeared in the *Michigan Law Review*, *California Law Review*, *Vanderbilt Law Review*, *Wisconsin Law Review*, *Minnesota Law Review*, *Iowa Law Review*, *Harvard Civil Liberties-Civil Rights Law Review*, and the *Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law, and Justice*. In addition to the important collaborations and awards in her work at the University of Iowa, including an Interdisciplinary Grant from the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, Professor Onwuachi-Willig is nationally recognized for her work with the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), the leading national association of law schools. She received the AALS Minority Groups Section Derrick A. Bell Award, presented annually to a junior faculty member who, through activism, mentoring, teaching, and scholarship, has made an extraordinary contribution to legal education, the legal system, or social justice. She serves currently as Chair of the AALS Committee for the Recruitment and Retention of Minorities and as a member of the 2011 AALS

Mid-Year Conference Planning Committee. In 2009, Professor Onwuachi-Willig convened a national conference of legal scholars at University of Iowa College of Law to celebrate the twenty-year anniversary of the first “critical race theory” gathering, serving as Chair of the National Planning Committee.

Professor Onwuachi-Willig is no stranger to Iowa, having attended and graduated from Grinnell University before attending the University of Michigan School of Law. Her return to the University of Iowa College of Law in 2006 demonstrates her connection to the state, its people, and its future. She offers the Iowa Supreme Court her perspective, her extensive knowledge of law and legal theory grounded in her own practice experience, her commitment to justice, and a talent for working collaboratively, including the skill of listening carefully, engaging thoughtfully, standing behind the integrity of her decisions, and working towards cooperative resolutions. As her colleagues, we can say without doubt that Professor Onwuachi-Willig commands wide-spread respect within the legal academy, across the political spectrum, that is deeply rooted in our shared dedication to the fair administration of the rule of law.

Professor Onwuachi-Willig has our admiration for her many accomplishments and exceptional qualifications. We strongly support her nomination to serve as a Justice on the Iowa Supreme Court.

Sincerely yours,



Raquel Aldana, Professor of Law
University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
Co-President



Steven Bender, Professor of Law
University of Oregon School of Law
Co-President