

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 13, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to recommend Paul J. Fishman for the position of United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey.

Mr. Fishman is exceptionally well qualified for this post, with fourteen years of experience in the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Department of Justice, working on a range of issues from complex securities litigation to combating criminal activity related to illegal firearms and gangs. Since leaving government service, Mr. Fishman has been a partner in the law firm of Friedman Kaplan Seiler & Adelman, where he has been a prominent and highly regarded attorney handling hundreds of civil and white-collar criminal matters. His practice includes clients from around the world and across the United States. That combination of experience, together with his strong intellect and unquestioned integrity, make him a superb choice to lead that office.

Mr. Fishman worked in the New Jersey U.S. Attorney's office from 1983 – 1994, starting as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and rising to the position of First Assistant to the U.S. Attorney. During his tenure, he also served as Chief of the Criminal Division and Chief of Narcotics. As First Assistant for almost four years, he supervised the office's six divisions, consisting of 110 attorneys and 125 support staff located in Newark, Camden and Trenton. He was the primary adviser to the U.S. Attorney, had final authority on many case-related and policy matters, and oversaw the daily operation of the office.

In late 1994, Mr. Fishman went to Washington to serve as Counsel to Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick. In 1995, he became Associate Deputy Attorney General and in 1997 served as the Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General. In those positions, Mr. Fishman was a senior advisor to the U.S. Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General on a range of law enforcement, policy, legislative, national security and international matters, as well as on specific investigations and prosecutions. Mr. Fishman's work involved interaction with all of the major federal law enforcement agencies, most of the components of the Department of Justice, and many other agencies of the Executive Branch.

Mr. Fishman has strong academic credentials. He graduated *magna cum laude* from Princeton University in 1978 and *cum laude* from Harvard Law School, where he served as Managing Editor of the Law Review. He has returned to Harvard Law School for the last several years to teach trial advocacy. Before joining the U.S. Attorney's office in 1983, he served as a clerk to Judge Edward Becker of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Mr. Fishman also is a leader of the bar. He has been an officer or trustee of the American Bar Association's White Collar Crime Committee, the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey; the Board of Governors of the Third Circuit Bar Association, and the Federal Bar Council of the Second Circuit.

Paul Fishman has the right qualifications, intellect and integrity to serve as the U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey. We recommend him to you without reservation.

Sincerely,


FRANK R. LAUTENBERG


ROBERT MENENDEZ