

July 23, 2013

Senator Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary
Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Leahy and Grassley:

As alumni of the Virginia Military Institute and veterans of the U.S. military, we are writing to express our strong support for the confirmation of Cornelia (Nina) T.L. Pillard to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Because of Professor Pillard's outstanding work on *United States v. Virginia* before the U.S. Supreme Court, our alma mater, VMI, opened its doors to female cadets in 1997. At that time, VMI and The Citadel in South Carolina were the nation's last male-only public colleges. Professor Pillard's victory on our behalf put an end to discriminatory exclusion of female college applicants once and for all.

Established in 1839, VMI is the oldest military college in the nation. For nearly 175 years, VMI has given outstanding education and training to its citizen-soldiers and has seen them excel in civilian and military leadership. Our alma mater takes pride in its rich tradition cultivating a love of learning and a commitment to service in the public and private sectors.

VMI gauges its success as an institution by measuring the societal contributions of its alumni. Professor Pillard would rank high for her work to open VMI to female cadets. The case was initiated by the George H.W. Bush Administration and made its way to the Supreme Court during Professor Pillard's tenure at the office of the Solicitor General of the United States. Professor Pillard drafted the five Supreme Court briefs for the United States and her winning arguments opened VMI's doors for women who have become leaders in the armed forces, elsewhere in public service, and in the private sector.

Absent her extraordinary work, women would have had no chance even to be considered for admission to VMI. Enabled by the *United States v. Virginia* decision, we all competed on equal terms for admission to and distinction at this esteemed institution. Josiah Bunting III, the Superintendent of VMI when female cadets were first integrated into the corps, has since called VMI's transition to coeducation "one of its finest hours." We couldn't agree more.

As VMI alumni who have benefited firsthand from this nominee's dedication to advancing the rule of law under our Constitution, we strongly urge you to confirm of Nina Pillard to the D.C. Circuit Court.

Sincerely,

Bree Adams Guiterman
LCDR USNR
VMI Class of 2004

Kylie Lowe
New Mexico State Police
VMI Class of 2012

Elizabeth C. Dobbins
First Lieutenant, USMCR
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VMI Class of 2010

Matthew Steven Lowe
Special Operations Pilot, 1st Lieutenant, United States Air Force
VMI Class of 2011

Arthur Bradford Morrill IV
Specialist, VAARNG
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Robert L. Fendley
JD, American University Washington College of Law
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Kylie Morgan Lowe
VMI Class of 2012

Samantha D. Henke
Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army
VMI Class of 2012

Raevon Pulliam
Mechanical Engineer
VMI Class of 2007