

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 3, 2003

Honorable Alberto Gonzales
White House Counsel
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Judge Gonzales:

The enclosed email message from Judge Henry Saad was sent to Senator Stabenow on September 29 and brought to our attention late yesterday. We do not know who else received this email or how widely it was distributed.

The tone and content of this email message to Senator Stabenow – particularly the comment that “Perhaps some day she will pay the price for her misconduct.” – are highly offensive. The email message is also deeply troubling relative to the issue of Judge Saad’s judicial temperament and fitness for a lifetime appointment to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow



Carl Levin

cc: Senator Orrin Hatch
Senator Patrick Leahy
Judge Henry Saad

Enclosure

From: Judge Saad <HSAAD@courts.mi.gov>
Date: 9/29/2003 11:42:03 AM
To: senator@stabenow.senate.gov
Subject: Re: 6th District Court Nominations

Joe

She sends this standard response to all those who inquire about this subject. We know, of course, that this is the game they play. Pretend to do the right thing while abusing the system and undermining the constitutional process.. Perhaps some day she will pay the price for her misconduct. Joe, thanks for keeping me in the loop and for all the help you and others at Ave Maria have extended to me and the other Michigan 6th Cir. nominees. Sincerely, Henry

>>> "Senator Debbie Stabenow" <senator@stabenow.senate.gov> 09/28/03 11:33PM >>>

September 28, 2003


Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Thank you . . .

. . for contacting me regarding your support for President Bush's nominees to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals from Michigan. I understand your concerns and frustration.

As you know, on March 19, 2001, President Bush withdrew the names of nine appellate court nominees originally nominated by former President Clinton, including two Michigan women, Judge Helene White and Kathleen McCree Lewis, who had been nominated for the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. Before their names were withdrawn, these women's nominations had stood without hearings by the Judiciary Committee for over four years and one and half years, respectively.

Senator Levin and I continue to believe that a bipartisan solution is the best way to address the unfair treatment of Judge White and Ms. Lewis and to fill the existing Michigan judicial vacancies. Senator Levin and I have proposed the formation of a bipartisan commission to put forward nominees for the existing Michigan vacancies on the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. Unfortunately, the White House has rejected all offers of compromise, including the bipartisan commission. We continue to be willing to work with the White House to develop a compromise solution.

Thank you again for contacting me. If ever I can be of assistance to you in the future, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator