

Women's Equal Rights Legal Defense and Education Fund (WERLDEF)

March 7, 2008

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Arlen Specter, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Mr. Gustavus A. Puryear IV

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Specter:

I am contacting you in reference to the pending federal judicial nomination of Gustavus A. Puryear IV. Mr. Puryear's nomination hearing was held on February 12, and the Committee on the Judiciary is presently considering his answers to written questions. I oppose his confirmation.

I am an attorney and a partner in the Los Angeles law firm of Allred, Maroko & Goldberg. I have been practicing law for approximately 32 years. My law firm, Allred, Maroko & Goldberg, represents plaintiffs in cases involving employment discrimination, including sex, race, age, physical handicap, sexual orientation discrimination, Aids discrimination, sexual harassment and wrongful termination. We are also well-known for our work on behalf of victims in civil rights, rape, child sexual abuse and murder cases.

We have handled more women's rights cases than any other private law firm in the nation.

I have won countless honors for my pioneering legal work on behalf of women's rights and rights for minorities, including the President's Volunteer Action Award for Outstanding Volunteerism presented to me by President Ronald Reagan at the White House for my work on child support.

An active feminist, I founded and am currently serving as President of the Women's Equal Rights Legal Defense and Education Fund (WERLDEF).

I am also the author of "Fight Back And Win - My Thirty-Year Fight Against Injustice And How You Can Win Your Own Battles."

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Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

I have significant concerns regarding Mr. Puryear's membership in a private country club in which women members are unable to vote or hold office.

According to information received from the Private Corrections Institute, Mr. Puryear stated in a Questionnaire provided to the Committee that he was a member of the Belle Meade Country Club. He further said, "To my knowledge, during my membership at the club, it has not discriminated on the basis of race, sex, or religion."

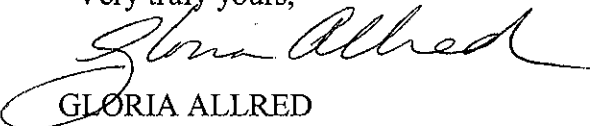
According to the club's By-Laws only Resident Members may vote or hold office. All of the club's approximately 600 Resident Members are male; consequently, no female members of the club, who are referred to as "Lady members," are able to vote or hold office in the organization.

In his answers to written questions submitted by the Committee members, Mr. Puryear explained this inequity by stating, "I am not aware, nor have I been made aware, that any woman has been proposed or has sought to be proposed as a resident member." New members must be proposed by the all-male class of Resident Members; thus, it is disturbing that no woman has been proposed for a membership that would afford voting privileges.

Further, it is difficult to reconcile Mr. Puryear's assertion that he was unaware of any gender discrimination at the Belle Meade Country Club when the Club's entire voting membership is male, "Lady members" are not allowed to vote, and no women have been proposed for Resident Member status that would afford voting privileges. The club's Constitution and By-laws do not include a non-discrimination statement. Mr. Puryear is an accomplished attorney and a judicial candidate; his denial of any knowledge of gender discrimination at the club under these circumstances is highly suspect.

I strongly encourage the Committee to seriously examine Mr. Puryear's statements in light of the obvious and admitted disparities at the Belle Meade Country Club in terms of the rights and privileges afforded to women members.

Very truly yours,



GLORIA ALLRED

President

(WERLDEF)