

**NLWJC - KAGAN**

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 29, 1996

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MS. CASS R. SUSTEIN

SUBJECT: SUPPORTS THE NOMINATION OF ELENA KAGAN TO BE  
HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL AT THE  
WHITE HOUSE

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
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May 20, 1996

President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I have heard that Elena Kagan, a professor at this law school now on leave at the White House, is a candidate for head of the Office of Legal Counsel. I write because I know Elena well and because I think she would be a wonderful choice.

Having worked at OLC in the early 1980s, I have a sense of the Office's functions and needs, and I think that Elena is unusually well-suited to the job. As a lawyer, she is both brilliant and entirely level-headed -- in academia at least, a fairly unusual combination of skills. When she approaches legal issues, she shows a lot of creativity and imagination, but she's also got outstanding judgment, real maturity, and a fine sense of proportion. It's perhaps unnecessary to say that despite her relative youth, she has a wide understanding of many areas of the law. Her work on the first amendment is a nice example; it takes a big step back from the law, organizes it wonderfully, and makes sense of a range of areas not normally grouped together. In fact she has a terrific head start on the questions with which OLC deals, and she's an amazingly fast learner.

Elena also deals wonderfully with people. She's one of the fairest and most decent people I know, and she is exceptionally well-liked and admired by a wide range of people at the law school -- moderates, conservatives, liberals, and everyone else. As a lawyer she's not at all "political," but she is very well-attuned to people and audiences, and she has a terrific sense what to say and when to say it. In fact she's established herself very quickly as the very best teacher at the law

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school (I say this with some chagrin). I've also seen her in a range of administrative capacities, and she's an excellent leader. In fact she is widely regarded as a strong candidate to become the next Dean of this law school. From what I've seen, I imagine that she would deal very well with the Congress and with other potentially adversarial bodies. It helps that she has a terrific sense of humor and is extremely reluctant to treat other people as adversaries.

I'm sure that there are a number of excellent choices to head OLC, but as someone who knows Elena and the Office well, I hope you won't mind if I suggest that this would be a terrific match. Very best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cass R. Sunstein', written in a cursive style.

Cass R. Sunstein