

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to offer our highest recommendation for the appointment of Minnesota Supreme Court Justice David Stras to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Since 2010, Justice Stras has been an outstanding and well-respected member of Minnesota's highest court. Through authoring nearly 70 majority opinions and dozens of concurrences and dissents, Justice Stras has continually displayed his commitment to interpreting the law, rather than making it, as well as a proclivity to strict textualism. His strong record of constitutionalism and conservative credentials uniquely qualify him for this position.

Prior to his service on the Minnesota Supreme Court, Justice Stras clerked for three federal appellate judges: Judge Melvin Brunetti of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Judge J. Michael Luttig of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and United States Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Bolstered by this experience, Justice Stras became a respected author and educator on federal courts and constitutional law during his tenure at the University of Minnesota Law School, even coauthoring a casebook that is still published today. These experiences cemented his reputation as an expert on federal courts.

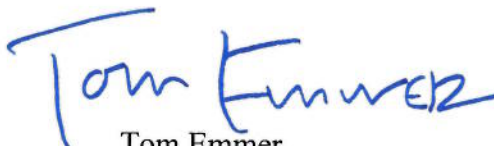
Based on these qualifications, it is our sincere pleasure to recommend Justice Stras to fill the vacancy on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit without hesitation.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of service as you consider this appointment.

Sincerely,



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Jason Lewis
Member of Congress