

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS



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## **LEGISLATIVE ALERT!**

(202) 637-5057

May 18, 2011



Dear Senator:

I am writing on behalf of the AFL-CIO in support of the nomination of Professor Goodwin Liu to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Professor Liu is extraordinarily well-qualified and I urge you to vote for cloture, and to vote for his confirmation.

Professor Liu has had a stellar academic and professional career. He was a Rhodes Scholar and Supreme Court clerk before joining the faculty of the University of California Berkeley Law School (Boalt Hall), where he earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Dean within five years. Professor Liu's academic publications and legal work demonstrate his thoughtful approach to difficult issues and careful analysis of all sides of every argument. His keen intellect and impressive understanding of the law was on display during his confirmation hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The federal courts of appeals play a critically important role in enforcing a broad array of rights and protections for American workers, including their right to minimum wages and overtime compensation, their right to a safe workplace, their right to a workplace free discrimination on grounds of race, gender, age, disability, or other prohibited factors, and their right to form a union and engage in collective bargaining with their employers over their pay and working conditions. Increasingly, the federal courts of appeal are the final word on key legal questions, given how few cases the U.S. Supreme Court hears each year. It is imperative, therefore, that nominees to the federal courts of appeal be individuals of distinction who understand the important role of the courts in upholding and enforcing key statutory and constitutional rights, and who have a demonstrated commitment to these principles.

The AFL-CIO is certain that Professor Liu will ensure that litigants before him are given a fair day in court. I urge the Senate to swiftly to confirm the nomination of Professor Goodwin Liu to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Sincerely,

William Samuel, Director  
Government Affairs Department