

May 24, 2006

Senator Arlen Specter
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Specter,

I write to express my strong opposition to the confirmation of the nomination of Jim Haynes to the federal bench.

During his tenure as General Counsel to the Department of Defense, Mr. Haynes has demonstrated himself to be deaf to the advice of senior military and civilian lawyers within the Department. This unwillingness to listen to others caused him to preside over the DoD legal system during the time of its greatest debacle in memory, the abuse of detainees by military personnel around the world.

Clearly, Mr. Haynes was not the only one responsible for this huge blemish on the honor of U.S. military personnel. There is considerable fault to go around. However, he was in a unique position to ensure it didn't happen in the first place or surely to stop it once it had occurred. He failed to do so. Active duty military personnel certainly would be held to a higher standard. They would not be "promoted" out of their failure to such an important life time position as judge on a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

If civilian *leadership* of the military means anything at all, it must mean there is accountability for failures such as his.

Very respectfully,



John D. Hutson
RADM, JAGC, USN, (ret.)

cc. Senator Patrick Leahy ✓