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January 21, 2015

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Nomination of Minoru Yasui for 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Oregon State Bar Board of Governors, I write to endorse the nomination of Minoru Yasui for the 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Mr. Yasui was a graduate of the University of Oregon Law School and the first Japanese-American member of the Oregon State Bar when he was admitted to practice in 1939.

Although Mr. Yasui practiced law in Oregon only briefly, his entire career exemplified the Oregon State Bar's mission of and commitment to access to justice beginning with his challenge to the military exclusion zones in Oregon established by Executive Order in 1942. Mr. Yasui was arrested, convicted, stripped of his citizenship and jailed before the US Supreme Court held the lower court ruling unconstitutional and restored Mr. Yasui's citizenship the following year. Nevertheless, Mr. Yasui spent the remainder of World War II in an internment camp. Upon release, he moved to Denver, Colorado, where he lived the rest of his life.

Mr. Yasui's wartime experiences did not diminish his love for his country; rather it propelled him to spend the ensuing years fighting for civil rights for all minorities and to seeking redress for those interned during World War II. He was recognized as an outstanding citizen by the city of Denver, which established a service award in his honor. Mr. Yasui died in 1986, two years before the Civil Liberties Act called on the President to apologize for internment. He is buried in Hood River, Oregon, where he was born.

President Barack Obama

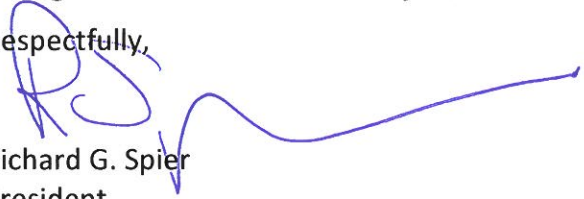
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The Presidential Medal of Freedom recognizes civilians who have made a meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors. Mr. Yasui's lifetime commitment to civil rights, access to justice and diversity make him an ideal candidate.

The OSB Board of Governors is proud to endorse Minoru Yasui for the Medal and encourages you to recognize his many contributions to making the United States a more just nation.

Respectfully,



Richard G. Spier  
President