

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Washington, D. C. 20554

OCT 10 1991

OFFICE OF
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
United States Senate
221 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510-0802

Dear Senator Biden:

I have been the Managing Director of the Federal Communications Commission for the past two years. I had been Management Director of the Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Education with direct responsibility for personnel and EEO during the time Mr. Clarence Thomas was Assistant Secretary. I was also Financial and Resource Management Director of EEOC while Mr. Thomas was Chairman. In these capacities, I also knew and worked with Ms. Anita Hill.

I differ with Ms. Hill's statement that she followed Mr. Thomas to EEOC because she would have lost her job at OCR. At no time were any of the employees of OCR at risk of losing their jobs during this period. OCR had a separate budget earmark which was more than sufficient to avoid any staff cutbacks. Additionally, no employees were made to feel that their jobs were in jeopardy by Mr. Thomas' departure from OCR. Quite the opposite was true: after Mr. Thomas announced his departure from OCR to go to EEOC, Mr. Thomas made a special point of walking the halls of OCR to introduce Mr. Harry Singleton, his successor, to OCR staff in order to facilitate the continuity of leadership.

Any explanation of Ms. Hill's rationale for leaving OCR to go to EEOC that is founded on her allegation that she would have lost her job at OCR is without basis. Indeed, Ms. Hill told me at the time that she was flattered to be selected by Mr. Thomas to work at EEOC. In our conversation, she also expressed her admiration for Mr. Thomas.

After I moved to EEOC to be Financial and Resource Management Director, Ms. Hill again praised Mr. Thomas to me. In several conversations that were held, she expressed both her respect for him as a man and as a leader of the EEOC.

In fact, Ms. Hill and I also talked after she announced her own departure from EEOC to become a law professor. She told me that she was indebted to Clarence Thomas for the opportunities he had given her and that he had always been supportive and encouraging of her career goals.

I would also like to express that as a career civil servant in the Senior Executive Service, I can state unequivocally that Mr. Thomas repeatedly, consistently and forcefully impressed upon his senior staff our own responsibilities to act in a professional manner in which would bring credit

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and respect to the offices we held. In particular, he was vocally adamant that the presence of any form of discrimination--and he specifically mentioned sexual harassment--would not be tolerated. At no time during the nearly nine years I worked in organizations headed by him was there ever so much as a "hallway rumor" regarding his own conduct. He was widely viewed as the epitome of a moral and upright man by the staff he supervised.

I would like to add a personal note. I hold a doctorate from Columbia University and have authored articles and two books on sex equity issues, which I believe help to make me sensitive to the issues of sex discrimination and sexual harassment. I am also the husband of a professional woman who found she had no option but to formally charge her Ph.D. advisor of sexual harassment nearly two decades ago. I believe I am as sensitive to the issue of sexual harassment as any man can be. And I will tell you that nothing in Mr. Clarence Thomas's professional or personal demeanor, and nothing in any of my conversations with Ms. Anita Hill, have ever lead me to believe that Mr. Thomas could act in any of the ways in which Ms. Hill has charged.

If I can provide any additional information in regard to Mr. Thomas's performance or conduct at either OCR or EEOC, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

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Andrew S. Fishel
Managing Director

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