

## CLS STATEMENT March 16, 2016

## CAUTION NEEDED IN SCOTUS CONFIRMATION PROCESS

"The confirmation of the next Supreme Court justice should be held after the 2016 election. The American people are at a critical crossroads in this election season and should have the opportunity to voice their opinion in this matter. Too much is at stake to throw caution to the wind and potentially jeopardize the future of religious liberty in America," explained Christian Legal Society's Center for Law and Religious Freedom Director, Kim Colby.

President Obama announced his nomination today of Judge Merrick Garland to replace Justice Antonin Scalia on the United States Supreme Court. As we always have in the past, CLS continues to believe that any judicial nominee must affirm his or her willingness to interpret the Constitution as written and not as the nominee wishes it were written.

Because the Constitution is the basis upon which liberty stands, CLS supports only nominees who understand that the Constitution's words are the contract that binds the American people, not opinion polls or the current popularity of a particular policy. This was the hallmark of Justice Scalia's legal thinking for which he has been honored over the past month by persons across the political spectrum.

Furthermore, CLS will only support nominees who will use their office to protect human life and religious liberty.