

RELEASE IN FULL

Talking points for HRC's call to Greg Craig recommending Goodwin Liu for a nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

- ***Goodwin is a widely respected, first-rate legal scholar.*** I know this first-hand because I co-authored a law review article with him in 2003 critiquing the Supreme Court's federalism decisions that cut back on Congress's power to enforce civil rights. Goodwin has published major articles on constitutional law, civil rights, and educational equity in top law journals. He earned tenure in his fifth year at UC Berkeley and was immediately promoted to Associate Dean. His 2006 article in the *Yale Law Journal*, "Education, Equality, and National Citizenship," won a prestigious national award for outstanding scholarship. This year, he won UC Berkeley's highest award for excellence in teaching. He went to college at Stanford, attended Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship, and graduated from Yale Law School.
- ***Goodwin is a recognized leader in the progressive legal community.*** Goodwin was recently elected Chair of the Board of the American Constitution Society, a testament to his broad appeal and intellectual leadership. In 2006, he testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee against the confirmation of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court, highlighting Judge Alito's record of upholding government power against claims of individual liberty or privacy. Goodwin serves on several other nonprofit boards, including the National Women's Law Center, and he is regularly consulted by lawyers, policymakers, and journalists who seek guidance on civil rights law.
- ***Goodwin has a rare combination of scholarly credentials and practical experience in law and public policy.*** He clerked for Judge Tatel on the D.C. Circuit and Justice Ginsburg on the Supreme Court. He worked for two years in the litigation practice of O'Melveny & Myers in Washington, D.C. He served twice in the Clinton Administration—first at the Corporation for National Service helping to launch AmeriCorps, and later at the U.S. Department of Education developing civil rights and K-12 policy. As a scholar, he filed a Supreme Court amicus brief in 2006 supporting voluntary school desegregation. In 2008, he wrote a widely discussed policy brief proposing a more equitable system of school finance in California.
- ***Goodwin has the temperament, intellect, and experience to be an outstanding judge.*** His reputation for collegiality, judgment, and fairness is amply demonstrated by his appointments as Chair of the American Constitution Society, as Associate Dean of his law school, and as a member of the Stanford University Board of Trustees.
- ***There are currently no active Asian American judges on any federal court of appeals in the country.*** Goodwin is a first-generation American. He is the son of Taiwanese immigrants who came to this country with their suitcases and their educations. They were fortunate to have professional opportunities, and they taught themselves to be fluent in English. Goodwin grew up in Sacramento and attended public schools. He is the first in his family to become a lawyer.