## **Supporting Information**

Effects of Substituents and Anions on the Phase Behavior of Ru(II) Sandwich Complexes: Exploring the Boundaries between Ionic Liquids and Ionic Plastic Crystals

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estimated by DFT calculations.				
anion	$V(Å^3)$	$r_{\rm anion}$ (Å)		
PF <sub>6</sub> <sup>-</sup>	74.9	2.61		
$C(CN)_3^-$	90.8	2.79		
FSA-	98.7	2.87		
$B(CN)_4^-$	117.2	3.04		
$Tf_2N^-$	157.5	3.35		

Table S1 Volumes and radii of anions

**Table S2** Volumes and radii of cationsestimated by DFT calculations.

cation	$V(Å^3)$	$r_{\text{cation}}$ (Å)
[C0] <sup>+</sup>	186.6	3.54
$[C1]^{+}$	204.9	3.66
$[C2]^+$	223.1	3.76
[ <b>C4</b> ] <sup>+</sup>	260.0	3.96

Table S3 Phase transition data of the salts investigated herein.<sup>a</sup>

	Phase transition	$T_{\rm c}$ (°C)	$\Delta H (\text{kJ mol}^{-1})$	$\Delta S (\text{J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1})$
[ <b>C0</b> ][PF <sub>6</sub> ] <sup>b</sup>	$I \rightarrow II$	59.3	4.16	12.5
[ <b>C0</b> ][FSA]	$I \rightarrow II$	159.8	9.7	22.2
	$\mathrm{II} \to \mathrm{III}^*$	182.7	6.5	14.2
[ <b>C0</b> ][B(CN) <sub>4</sub> ]	$I \rightarrow II$	55.8	7.6	22.9
	$\mathrm{II} \to \mathrm{III} \ast$	67.1	8.8	25.6
[ <b>C0</b> ][C(CN) <sub>3</sub> ]	$I \rightarrow II$	48.9	10.2	31.6
	$II \rightarrow liq.$	90.2	10.1	27.5
[ <b>C1</b> ][PF <sub>6</sub> ]	$I \rightarrow II^*$	14.8	8.6	29.0
[ <b>C1</b> ][FSA]	$I \rightarrow II$	-8.6	7.7	28.6
	$\mathrm{II} \to \mathrm{III}^*$	45.7	2.5	7.6
[C1][B(CN) <sub>4</sub> ]	$I \rightarrow II^*$	14.2	26.5	91.2
[ <b>C1</b> ][C(CN) <sub>3</sub> ]	$liq. \rightarrow I$	-58.6	10.0	45.4
	$I \rightarrow II$	-29.7	0.9	3.6
	$II \rightarrow liq.$	-1.3	20.4 <sup><i>d</i></sup>	73.7 <sup>d</sup>
[ <b>C2</b> ][PF <sub>6</sub> ]	$\mathrm{I} \to \mathrm{II}^*$	88.3	10.3	28.1
	II* $\rightarrow$ liq.	161.3	5.8	13.2
[ <b>C2</b> ][FSA]	$I \rightarrow liq.$	16.9	18.9	64.6
[ <b>C2</b> ][B(CN) <sub>4</sub> ]	$\mathrm{I} \to \mathrm{II}^*$	15.7		
	II* $\rightarrow$ liq.	22.6	15.2 <sup>e</sup>	52.2 <sup>e</sup>
[ <b>C4</b> ][PF <sub>6</sub> ] <sup><i>c</i></sup>	$I \rightarrow II$	62.8	8.7	26.3
	$\mathrm{II} \to \mathrm{III}$	73.0	5.6	16.6
	III $\rightarrow$ liq.	87.0	7.8	22.8

<sup>*a*</sup>Asterisk symbols (\*) denote plastic phases. <sup>*b*</sup>Data from Ref 8. <sup>*c*</sup>Data from Ref 7. <sup>*d*</sup>Including the contribution of a solid phase transition near the melting point that appeared as a shoulder. <sup>*e*</sup>Including the contribution of the solid phase transition from I to II\*.



Fig. S1 Thermogravimetric traces of (a)  $[C2][B(CN)_4]$ , (b)  $[C4][B(CN)_4]$ , and (c)  $[C4][C(CN)_3]$  (10 K min<sup>-1</sup>).



**Fig. S2** DSC traces of (a) [C0][FSA], (b)  $[C0][B(CN)_4]$ , and (c)  $[C0][C(CN)_3]$  (*liq*.: liquid phase). Asterisk symbols (\*) denote plastic phases.



**Fig. S3** DSC traces of (a) [C1][PF<sub>6</sub>], (b) [C1][FSA], (c) [C1][B(CN)<sub>4</sub>], and (d) [C1][C(CN)<sub>3</sub>] (*gl.*: glassy phase, *liq.*: liquid phase). Asterisk symbols (\*) denote plastic phases.



**Fig. S4** DSC traces of (a)  $[C2][PF_6]$ , (b) [C2][FSA], and (c)  $[C2][B(CN)_4]$  (*gl.*: glassy phase, *liq.*: liquid phase).



**Fig. S5** Polarizing microscope images of [**C0**][FSA] at (a) 25 °C, (b) 170 °C, (c) 200 °C (crossed nicols), and (d) 200 °C (open nicol).



**Fig. S6** Polarizing microscope images of  $[C0][B(CN)_4]$  at (a) 25 °C, (b) 60 °C, (c) 80 °C (crossed nicols), and (d) 80 °C (open nicol).



**Fig. S7** Temperature dependence of the viscosities of (a)  $[C2][B(CN)_4]$  and (b)  $[C4][B(CN)_4]$ . Solid lines are fitted from the VFT equation.



**Fig. S8** Packing diagrams of (a) [**C0**][FSA] (296 K) and (b) [**C0**][B(CN)<sub>4</sub>] (173 K). Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity. Refinements were performed by tentatively assuming the space groups to be *A*ma2 and *C*2, respectively (See text).



Fig. S9 Powder XRD patterns of (a) [C0][B(CN)<sub>4</sub>], (b) [C1][FSA] and (c) [C2][PF<sub>6</sub>] (MoK $\alpha$  radiation,  $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å).





**Fig. S10** ORTEP drawings of the molecular structures of (a)  $[C2][PF_6]$  and (b)  $[C0][C(CN)_3]$ . Hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.

	[ <b>C0</b> ][FSA]	[ <b>C0</b> ][B(CN) <sub>4</sub> ]
Empirical formula	$C_{11}H_{11}F_2NO_4RuS$	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>11</sub> N <sub>4</sub> BRu
Formula weight	424.40	359.16
Crystal system	Monoclinic	Orthorhombic
<i>a</i> (Å)	12.856(6)	17.530(10)
<i>b</i> (Å)	8.925(4)	8.791(5)
<i>c</i> (Å)	6.333(3)	9.499(6)
α (°)	69.578(5)	90
$eta(\circ)$	86.466(6)	90
γ(°)	86.334(5)	90
$V(\text{\AA}^3)$	724.5(6)	1463.9(15)
Ζ	2	4
$d_{\text{calcd.}} (\text{mg m}^{-3})$	1.945	1.630
Т(К)	296	173

Table S4 Cell parameters of [C0][FSA] and  $[C0][B(CN)_4]$