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October 31, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin, Chair  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Durbin and Graham:

I write in support of the nomination of John Russell to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma. Although currently in private practice, I am an alumnus of the U.S. Department of Justice, having served in various civil and criminal units during my 17-year DOJ career (trial attorney in the Tax Division (1991-98), AUSA in Connecticut (1998-2007), and Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Tax Division, Criminal Enforcement (2007-09)). John and I were colleagues in the Tax Division from 1991 to 1993, during which time we worked closely on a variety of complex civil tax cases. In the years following John's return to Oklahoma, we have remained in contact, both professionally and personally.

John is a superb choice for one of the open seats on the District Court. He was an excellent Tax Division colleague, whose advice and judgment were highly valued by the other attorneys, including our experienced supervisors. He was generous with his time and talent, and by his mentoring and personal example he brought out the best in his fellow attorneys. Throughout his career, John has demonstrated a commitment to the Constitution and the rule of law, always remembering that his duty as an attorney is not just to win cases, but to represent the government or his private clients in a way that would ensure the integrity of our adversarial system.

In addition to his stellar professional qualifications and high ethical standards, John is a man of great personal virtue and probity; he is kind, loyal, and generous. Unfailingly calm and respectful, John demonstrated a judicial temperament even as a young attorney. These admirable qualities are to be desired in any public servant, especially one who would serve as a trial judge.

Respectfully submitted,



John Marrella