



Daniel G. Webber, Jr.
dwebber@ryanwhaley.com
405.239.6040

November 2, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chair
United States Senate Committee
on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Lindsey O. Graham, Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee
on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: *Nomination of John D. Russell to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma*

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I am writing to voice my enthusiastic support for the nomination of John D. Russell to serve as a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

I have known John for approximately 20 years. In 2003, I entered private practice after serving as both an Assistant United States Attorney and the United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma. While learning the ropes of private practice in all three of Oklahoma's judicial districts, I quickly learned from judges and practitioners (and practitioners who would later become judges) that John was considered a model for someone successfully transitioning from being a prosecutor to private practice that involves complex civil and criminal litigation.

In 2006, I participated in a continuing legal education program on white collar criminal investigations. John gave the ethics presentation, focusing on the challenges of joint representation of companies and their employees. I kept John's presentation on my bookshelf for over a decade. More importantly, I was able to work with John on several matters where my client's employee, business partner, or family member needed top notch independent counsel. Many of these matters involved civil litigation running parallel to governmental investigations.

I have also faced John as opposing counsel, again in a matter where a large and complex civil suit was proceeding in the middle of a federal investigation. It became clear to me that the prosecutors, like me, understood that you can take John's word to the bank. This was just another

case in which John's legal acumen and skill, combined with his reputation for integrity, stood out among a crowded field of talented attorneys.

I have personally witnessed John's even temperament among a group of agitated lawyers in a discovery dispute. John's ability to keep his cool and maintain focus on the task at hand not only served his client well but also restored a sense of professionalism and purpose to a situation that likely would have devolved into a familiar session of all talk and no action.

In sum, given John's depth of experience in both civil and criminal matters, combined with his demonstrated integrity and professionalism, it is hard for me to imagine a more qualified candidate for the federal district court bench. He will be ready to start on day one. I hope the committee and the full Senate approve his nomination as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Webber, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Daniel G. Webber, Jr.