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November 10, 2023

## VIA EMAIL

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

Honorable Chuck Grassley, 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 Grassley:

I am writing to offer my full support for the nomination of John D. Russell to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

I have known Mr. Russell personally and professionally for many years. As a former U.S. Attorney and acting Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division who has led cases and investigations in many districts and venues across our great country for almost thirty years, I can say without reservation that Mr. Russell is one of the finest lawyers with whom I have the privilege of working. I have worked side-by-side with him in both civil and criminal defense cases. In each, he has exhibited the skills and judgment that will make him an outstanding U.S. District Judge.

Honorable Richard Durbin  
Honorable Chuck Grassley  
November 10, 2023  
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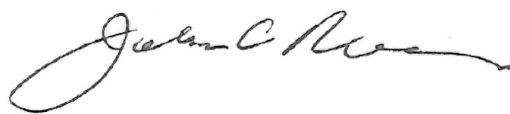
First, he has a mastery of federal procedure, trial, and case management that will translate immediately to the bench. He will bring a full understanding of and appreciation for the role of federal judges in ensuring that our Constitution and laws are faithfully followed and without fear or favor to anyone. Mr. Russell has a wealth of experience and expertise in representing individuals and companies on both the plaintiff's and defendant's side in civil cases. He is very well acquainted with the Northern District not only in representing individuals and companies in civil actions before that court, but also as an adjunct settlement judge appointed voluntarily to mediate disputes for the court. Suffice it to say that should he be so fortunate to be confirmed, he immediately will be able to manage and move a substantial civil docket ensuring that his decisions are made promptly and fairly.

Perhaps most importantly at present for the caseload in the Northern District of Oklahoma, Mr. Russell will be able to hit the ground running on the immense criminal docket facing that district. As a former Assistant U.S. Attorney, Tax Division trial attorney and long-time criminal defense counsel, he lives and breathes criminal procedure, evidence, plea procedure, trial process, and sentencing law. He will bring the experience and wisdom learned from representing the fortunate that has garnered him recognition as a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers by his peers in prominent law firms nationwide. That will be coupled with his immense experience and wisdom gained from his many years representing the less fortunate, particularly indigent defendants in appointed cases in the Northern District of Oklahoma.

Finally, despite his tremendous accomplishments and recognition as a lawyer, Mr. Russell remains humble and friendly to all. He has the perfect temperament to be a federal judge. He is calm, thoughtful, respectful, patient, and wise. He will treat all who come before him impartially and with grace. He will be firm and decisive, thereby moving the cases and disputes in front of him. And he will work incredibly hard -- all to ensure justice is done.

In sum, John D. Russell's nomination has my wholehearted support. I urge the Committee and the full Senate confirm him without delay.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Richter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John C. Richter