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November 5, 2023

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Support of GableGotwals Shareholders for the Confirmation of
John D. Russell to the United States District Court for the Northern
District of Oklahoma**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We write to express our strongest support for the nomination and confirmation of our colleague John D. Russell to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma. We are all shareholders at GableGotwals, where John has practiced law for the last eight years. We sign this letter in our personal capacities. While our backgrounds and political views may differ, we all share the belief that John would be an excellent judge and should be promptly confirmed.

As a lawyer, mentor, leader, and friend, you could not ask for a better colleague than John D. Russell. He has played an integral role in the life and success of our firm over the last eight years, serving on the firm's board of directors, on several key committees, and as lead counsel on some of our largest and most complex cases. He has been a mentor to countless attorneys at the firm, including several of the signatories to this letter. And he has done all of this while consistently being one of the firm's most productive and profitable shareholders.

John's work ethic, analytical abilities, ethical standards, and commitment to justice are second to none. Few attorneys can say that they have risen to the top of their field, particularly in multiple practice areas. John can, having done so in the competitive fields of complex commercial litigation and white-collar criminal defense. A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, John is one of the most skilled and sought-after attorneys in the state of Oklahoma. And yet, while he could very easily fill his plate doing some of the highest paid legal work in the



state, John has instead devoted a significant portion of his practice to serving underserved communities through his work representing indigent clients on the Northern District of Oklahoma's Criminal Justice Act Panel. John believes that every person, regardless of income, deserves a fair trial and lives out that ideal every day through his practice. In ways big and small, he exemplifies the very best of our profession.

In sum, we believe John is an ideal candidate for this position. While we will miss having him as our colleague, we know that he will make an exceptional district judge. Our loss is the country's gain. We urge you to confirm his nomination.

Respectfully submitted,

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