

**LEADER McCONNELL'S REMARKS TO THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
ON U.S. DISTRICT COURT NOMINEES HALE AND STIVERS
July 29, 2014**

Chairman Blumenthal, Ranking Member Grassley, members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and other distinguished guests, thank you for having me here today to testify to the fitness for the bench of our two Kentucky nominees for the United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky.

I'm pleased to come before the committee and voice my strong support for David J. Hale and Greg N. Stivers. I have no doubt that, after this committee has reviewed all of the documentation for these two outstanding Kentucky lawyers, you will come to the same conclusion.

David Hale has served as the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky since May 2010. In that role, he has focused aggressively on working to improve collaboration and cooperation among federal, state, and local law enforcement in his district, especially focusing on combatting the high levels of illegal drug abuse that are so prevalent in communities across our Commonwealth.

Although a native of my state's largest metropolitan area, Louisville, David has worked tirelessly at cooperative law enforcement efforts and educational endeavors in the more rural areas of western Kentucky. Sheriffs and chiefs of police who seldom crossed paths with a U.S. attorney have grown used to seeing Hale in their rural jurisdictions, bringing with him offers of assistance.

He has worked with his fellow U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Kentucky to develop, plan, and co-sponsor a highly successful statewide summit on prescription pill abuse. And he has worked with local education and law-enforcement leaders in his district to increase awareness of prescription drug abuse among teenagers.

I worked closely with David on the designation of Hardin County, Kentucky, as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area county, or “HIDTA” county, in 2012, which gives Hardin County access to federal law-enforcement resources, training, and intelligence. And we are working together on getting the same designation for an adjacent Kentucky county that is similarly fighting against the scourges of illegal prescription drug and now heroin abuse.

Before becoming the U.S. Attorney for Kentucky’s Western District in 2010, David Hale worked extensively in private civil practice and as a line assistant U.S. attorney, in the very office that he now ably leads.

Our other nominee, Greg Stivers, is an experienced and respected civil practitioner who has represented his clients diligently for nearly 30 years in a broad range of complex litigation.

Although he was born in the historic eastern Kentucky town of Hazard, he has called the Western Kentucky town of Bowling Green home since graduating from the University of Kentucky law school in 1985. For his entire career he has practiced with the firm currently known as Kerrick Bachert Stivers, where he is a well-regarded partner.

He works with clients in employment-related disputes, and also represents municipalities in a wide range of litigation, including zoning, taxation, and code enforcement. Greg also has extensive experience in the area of workers compensation claims.

Furthermore, Greg has had the experience of representing Western Kentucky University in a broad range of complex litigation matters in the area of employment litigation as well as representing WKU on business and transactional matters.

His dedication to Western Kentucky University transcends the courtroom, having served as a director on the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation for many years, and as president in 2010.

Let me once again reiterate my unqualified support for both David Hale and Greg Stivers as nominees for the federal judiciary. Both men, proud graduates of my own alma mater, the University of Kentucky College of Law, have the requisite experience, temperament, and judgment required for the federal bench.

And both have the character that we look for in every federal judicial nominee. I hope the committee will agree with me that both David Hale and Greg Stivers are well qualified to serve on the federal bench.

Thank you.