



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
District of New Mexico
Pete V. Domenici United States Courthouse
333 Lomas Boulevard N.W., Suite 770
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

William P. Johnson
Chief District Judge

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The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman 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

Re: Nomination of Sarah Davenport to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I write this letter in support of the nomination of Assistant United States Attorney Sara Davenport for the position of United States District Judge to fill a vacancy in the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico. The vacancy for which Ms. Davenport has been nominated is in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

I have been an active District Judge since President George W. Bush signed my commission in December of 2001 subsequent to being confirmed by the United States Senate. While my duty station is in Albuquerque, a significant portion of my time over the past 23 years has been devoted to presiding over criminal cases in Las Cruces. The Las Cruces felony criminal docket consists of a high volume of border related cases such as felony re-entry, drug trafficking, human trafficking, transporting illegal aliens and weapons related cases. In short, the Las Cruces criminal docket is similar to the dockets in the southwest border courthouses in the United States District Courts for the Southern District of Texas, Western District of Texas, District of Arizona and Southern District of California.

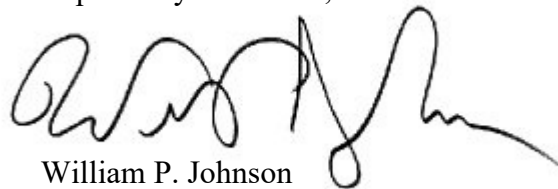
The vast majority of Sara Davenport's career as an attorney has been as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico in Las Cruces. During her career as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Ms. Davenport has prosecuted all types of complex felony cases in Las Cruces and has appeared frequently before me as well as my colleagues and visiting district judges from all over the United States who would travel to Las Cruces to assist during times when there was a surge in border related cases filed by the Department of Justice. Ms.

Davenport's work ethic is unmatched and her trial advocacy skills including her written and oral presentations are exemplary. She is a tremendous advocate for the United States while maintaining the high ethical standards required of federal prosecutors and attorneys who practice in federal court. She is an attorney who exemplifies professionalism in all aspects of her practice as a lawyer and she has the demeanor and temperament necessary to be an outstanding federal district judge.

Finally and on a personal note, if Ms. Davenport is confirmed by the United States Senate, then she will fill the vacancy on my court created by my notice of retirement from regular active judicial service. As I complete my term as Chief Judge and transition to the position of Senior Judge, my goal is to ensure that the District of New Mexico is in good shape especially with all judicial vacancies filled and Las Cruces having the judicial resources in place to handle any potential surge in border related case filings. I would be extremely pleased to see Ms. Davenport confirmed to fill my seat on the Court.

If I can answer any questions or provide any additional information, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William P. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William P. Johnson