

SCOTT J. CRICHTON
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT
Personal Address:
430 Fannin Street · Shreveport, LA 71101
(318) 227-3711 · scott@justicecrichton.com

June 29, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Jerry Edwards, Jr., Candidate for Article III Nomination/
Western District of Louisiana

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I currently serve as an Associate Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court and previously served for 24 years as a Louisiana state district court judge in Caddo Parish. For five years, I served as an adjunct faculty member of Tulane Law School, teaching courses in appellate advocacy and advanced legal ethics, and for the past 30 years I have regularly taught continuing legal education courses for lawyers and judges, primarily speaking on the subjects of ethics and professionalism. Finally, I am a Republican and a conservative jurist. It is through this lens of judge and teacher that I write to recommend Jerry Edwards, Jr., for your consideration as a federal judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

I consider myself fortunate to have known Jerry both professionally and personally for nearly two decades. In 2005, a judicial colleague and I selected Jerry to serve as our law clerk for a one-year term. Conducting research, providing analysis and drafting recommendations on both criminal and civil pre-trial motions, Jerry's work was stellar. He stands out as the best young lawyer to serve in that position during my trial court tenure. Jerry was thereafter hired by Blanchard,

Walker, O'Quin and Roberts, a century-old, premier Shreveport Louisiana law firm. Serving in the litigation section, Jerry handled state and federal personal injury and business law cases, primarily on the defense side; he also handled municipal and regulatory matters—some transactional and others requiring a hearing and advocacy for the client. Jerry's worthy contribution to the firm is evidenced by his advancement from associate to partner, then to the firm's management committee and ultimately to the position of Director.

Most recently, Jerry has served as Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District for four years, with the past 14 months in a managerial position of First Assistant U.S. Attorney. He has defended the United States of America in civil suits and prosecuted individuals charged with federal/felony level crimes.

Jerry's contributions outside of the office are also noteworthy. He frequently presents continuing education classes for lawyers and judges. His materials are consistently comprehensive and his presentation is always a worthy academic contribution. Also of particular interest is Jerry's commitment to our community, serving on the Board of Directors for the Volunteers of America North Louisiana and the Community Foundation.

Finally, but importantly, Jerry was appointed to the nine-member Judiciary Commission of Louisiana, a constitutionally constituted committee which investigates ethical complaints against judges, conducts trials, and recommends sanctions to the Louisiana Supreme Court. He was elected by his peers to Vice Chair and then Chair during his third and fourth years. He currently serves on the Character and Fitness Panel for the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee on Bar Admissions.

I can confidently say that Jerry Edwards' impeccable credentials and accomplishments qualify him for service in the federal judiciary. He is an enormously worthy candidate for the federal bench and I enthusiastically recommend him. Please contact me at scrichton@lasc.org or scott@justicecrichton.com or my cell phone (318) 510-8000 should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SCOTT CRICHTON", written in a cursive style.

Scott J. Crichton