



Graydon D. Luthey, Jr.
Direct Line: (918) 595-4821
dluthey@gablelaw.com

110 N Elgin Avenue, Suite 200
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120
Telephone (918) 595-4800
Fax (918) 595-4990
www.gablelaw.com

November 3, 2023

By Email

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

Honorable Lindsey O. Graham, Ranking Member
U.S. 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 Graham:

I write in support of the nomination of John D. Russell for United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma. I have known Mr. Russell for several decades. He became my law partner at GableGotwals eight years ago. I helped recruit him to our law firm. I have worked on cases with him.

Mr. Russell is an outstanding lawyer with varied federal court experience. Of all the federal district judges in the Northern and Eastern Districts of Oklahoma before whom I have practiced in the last 43 years, he is uniquely qualified for the federal district bench.

He has been a federal prosecutor and criminal defense counsel appointed and retained in federal district court. He has federal tax litigation experience. He has been lead counsel for plaintiffs and defendants in a wide variety of federal civil litigation. He has handled matters involving federal agencies.

That breadth of his federal litigation practice has allowed Mr. Russell to develop great organizational and analytical skills that are needed by a federal district judge. He examines all sides of an issue. He is highly intelligent, incisive in thought, clear in communication, and



Hon. Richard J. Durbin
Hon. Lindsey O. Graham
November 3, 2023
Page 2

measured in approach. He has the humility, self-control and respect for people that a lifetime judicial appointment requires. His work ethic is stellar.

Mr. Russell has spent his professional career championing and applying the rule of law fairly. He will be impartial. As a law partner of Mr. Russell, I have observed how he interacts with junior lawyers, opposing counsel, firm staff, court personnel, and parties to litigation. He has the necessary temperament for the job. He has the highest character and is devoted to his community, his family and his faith.

Mr. Russell will be an outstanding addition to an outstanding federal bench in the Northern District of Oklahoma. Although I will miss practicing law with him, I highly support his nomination.¹

Sincerely,



Graydon D. Luthey, Jr.

GDL:mda

¹ My views are also informed by my own experience with local federal district judges, which includes having been trained by a lawyer who became Chief Judge of the Northern District of Oklahoma, having been law partners with a now active senior judge of the district, another judge of Northern District, the Chief Judge of the Eastern District of Oklahoma, and having been a supervising lawyer in private practice of the current Chief Judge of the District. I have been lead counsel in matters in all federal district courts in Oklahoma and have argued before the Tenth Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. I have served as President of one of our American Inns of Court and of the local chapter of the Federal Bar Association and am an elected member of the American Law Institute and a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.