



October 31, 2023

*Via U.S. Mail*

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 am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for the nomination of John D. Russell to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

I have known Mr. Russell as a colleague at the GableGotwals law firm for approximately nine years. During that period, we have worked together on several challenging, contentious engagements. Without fail, Mr. Russell has demonstrated the highest level of professionalism, integrity, and skill throughout them all. Whether adverse counsel employed scorched-earth tactics or had malleable veracity, they were met with Mr. Russell's unflappable temperament. I am a better attorney because of my association with him, along with the several other attorneys in the firm who have had the good fortune to work with Mr. Russell on a regular basis.

As Past President of the Tulsa County Bar Association (TCBA), I serve as chair of the TCBA's awards and nominations committee. Among the more prestigious recognitions of the committee is the Golden Rule Award. The award is made to an attorney who recognizes the ethical & professional obligations as an officer of the court as well as the spirit and intent of the Oklahoma Rules of Professional Conduct; practices ethically and honestly and is true to his/her word; strives for the traditional goals of moral excellence; exhibits the highest standards of fairness and integrity; sets a model example for conduct with members of the Bar and the Judiciary by words and deeds; is civil, courteous, and respectful towards the court and his/her opponents; is loyal to his/her client without trickery and deception and without using abusive



practices or misleading the court or opposing counsel; avoids the temptation to make his/her client's case into a personal vendetta; and conducts himself/herself in a manner that improves the image of the legal profession in the eyes of the public. Mr. Russell (who has been nominated for the award) embodies these criteria with seemingly little effort. He is a good lawyer and, perhaps, a better man. Mr. Russell would be a model United States District Judge.

For the reasons above, I heartily endorse Mr. Russell's nomination to the bench and urge a speedy Senate confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Philip D. Hixon', is written over a light blue grid background.

Philip D. Hixon  
Past President

cc: Sarah Bauer (by email)  
Ryan Giles (by email)