

CHIEF JUSTICE BERNETTE JOSHUA JOHNSON (RET.)

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Sent via E-mail only

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. nominee to the U.S. District Court, Western District of Louisiana

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

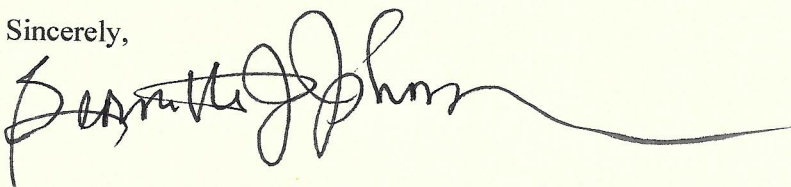
I am writing this letter to express my enthusiastic support for Jerry Edwards, Jr. who has been nominated by President Joseph Biden to serve as a federal judge for the Western District of Louisiana. I have been a lawyer in Louisiana since 1969. I served as a civil trial judge for 10 years and then I was elected to serve on the Louisiana Supreme Court in 1994. I became the Court's 25th Chief Justice in 2013.

I have known Jerry Edwards for more than 15 years and have watched his professional development. He has had a successful career as a trial lawyer beginning with one of the outstanding law firms in Shreveport and then moved to the U.S. Attorney's office for the Western District of Louisiana where he gained vast experience overseeing Criminal and Civil litigation. All of this will serve him well in his new role as a federal judge. Jerry has devoted much of his time to professional development. He has assumed leadership roles and has been instrumental in many professional organizations in our state.

What has impressed me most about Jerry is his dedication and service to the various committees that serve the Judiciary. When I met him, he was serving as a member of the Louisiana Judiciary Commission which receives complaints and disciplines judges, when necessary. I can assure you that most young lawyers would rather avoid the difficult task of scrutinizing the conduct of judges. He served as a member of the Commission with distinction and went on to serve as its Chair. He has also served on the Committee on Bar Admissions and now serves on the Louisiana Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee. All of these committees are crucial to a well-functioning Judiciary.

Jerry is conscientious and has the intellect, character, and temperament to make an outstanding federal judge. I recommend him without reservation. If you have any specific questions about his character or qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson (ret.)