

February 24, 2025

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate

**Re: Letter of Current and Former Senior Personnel and Appellate Lawyers of the Missouri Attorney General's Office in Support of the Nomination of D. John Sauer to Serve as Solicitor General of the United States**

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We are current and former members of the Missouri Attorney General's Office. As members of the Office's senior leadership or the Solicitor General's team, each of us worked alongside D. John Sauer during his time in the Office. We have had the opportunity to observe—up close, and on a daily basis—his legal skills, management abilities, and character. Based on our firsthand knowledge of John's qualifications, we strongly support his nomination to serve as Solicitor General of the United States.

John served as Solicitor General of Missouri from 2017 to 2023. In that role, he managed the entirety of the State's appellate docket. John personally briefed and argued numerous cases in the Missouri appellate courts, the Eighth Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Many of those cases involved the same sorts of issues that the U.S. Solicitor General handles on a regular basis. John also recruited and managed a team of highly talented Deputy Solicitors General. John's service as Missouri Solicitor General makes him uniquely qualified to serve as Solicitor General of the United States. In effect, he has already spent nearly six years handling the same substantive and managerial tasks that this new role would involve. John would be able to hit the ground running on day one.

In addition to his role as Solicitor General, John also served as the First Assistant Attorney General (*i.e.*, the top unelected member of the Office) from 2017 to 2019. This position involved an extraordinary range of tasks, from the high-stakes to the mundane. One day, John might have been called on to personally handle a trial in a state trial court. Another day, John might have spent hours preparing CLE programming for Office personnel. And almost every day, attorneys throughout the Office would seek John's insight and advice on their cases. John's ability to thrive in this full-time (or more-than-full-time) role while also serving as Solicitor General speaks to his extraordinary work ethic and efficiency.

As described above, John's legal and management experience makes him uniquely qualified to serve as Solicitor General of the United States. However, having worked alongside John, we know that he brings far more to the table than a brilliant mind and deep experience. Day

in and day out, we have seen John act with extraordinary integrity and professionalism. John has also served as a mentor to most of us, helping us to become both better advocates and better people. We have also witnessed John's unwavering commitment to public service. That John spent nearly six years working tirelessly in state government—rather than pursuing more glamorous and lucrative opportunities that his talents and pedigree could have garnered him—speaks to how he prioritizes the public good over personal gain or recognition. John's character—just as much as his legal talent and experience—will make him an excellent Solicitor General.

For the reasons described above, we strongly support John's nomination to serve as Solicitor General of the United States, and we respectfully urge the Committee to advance his nomination.

Respectfully,

***Current AGO Personnel***

Andrew Bailey  
Attorney General of Missouri

James S. Atkins  
First Assistant Attorney General

Joshua M. Divine  
Solicitor General and Director of Special Litigation

Maria A. Lanahan  
Principal Deputy Solicitor General

Shaun J. Mackelprang  
Deputy Attorney General, Criminal

Jeremiah J. Morgan  
Deputy Attorney General, Civil

Chuck Adamson  
Chief Counsel, Employment Litigation

Greg Goodwin  
Chief Counsel, Public Protection Section

Todd Scott  
Senior Counsel

Patrick Sullivan  
Chief Counsel, Litigation Section

Kevin Zoellner  
Chief Counsel, Public Protection (2021-2023)

***Former AGO Personnel***

Tom Albus  
First Assistant Attorney General, 2019-2020

Ryan Bangert  
Deputy Attorney General, Civil, 2017-2019

Julie Marie Blake  
Deputy Solicitor General, 2017-2020

Zachary M. Bluestone  
Deputy Solicitor General, 2018-2020

Jon Bremer  
Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Civil, 2017-2018

Charles Capps  
Deputy Solicitor General, 2022-2023

Ken Capps  
Assistant Attorney General, 2022-2023

Marianna Deal  
Communications Director, 2019-2022

David Dean  
Assistant Attorney General, 2018-2019

Jason Dunkel  
Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Special Litigation, 2017-2018

Andrew Dziedzic  
Deputy Chief of Staff, 2018-2019

Daniel Hartman  
Chief of Staff, 2018-2019  
Special Counsel, 2017-2018

Jeff Johnson  
Deputy Solicitor General, 2020-2023

Jason K. Lewis

General Counsel, 2023-2024

Chief Counsel, Governmental Affairs, 2021-2023

Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Special Litigation, 2019-2021

Assistant Attorney General, 2016-2019

Michael Martinich-Sauter

General Counsel, 2018-2019

Deputy Attorney General, Special Litigation, 2017-2019

Jesus Osete

Deputy Attorney General, Special Litigation, 2021-2022

Deputy Solicitor General, 2020-2021

Peter T. Reed

Deputy Solicitor General, 2018-2020

Evan Rosell

Chief of Staff, 2017-2018

James Simeri

Deputy Chief Counsel, Consumer Protection, 2022-2023

Assistant Attorney General, 2019-2022

Justin D. Smith

First Assistant Attorney General, 2021-2022

Chief of Staff, 2020-2022

Deputy Attorney General, Special Litigation, 2019-2020

Cristian Stevens

First Assistant Attorney General, 2020-2021

Deputy Attorney General, Criminal, 2019-2020

Michael Talent

Deputy Solicitor General, 2021-2023

Christopher R. Wray

Chief of Staff, 2019-2020