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November 6, 2023

Via EMAIL

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

c/o Chairman Durbin's Chief Counsel Sarah Bauer at <u>Sarah Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov</u>

Honorable Lindsey O. Graham, Ranking Member U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

c/o Ranking Member Graham's Chief Counsel Ryan Giles at Ryan Giles@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

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 wholehearted and unreserved support for the nomination of John Russell to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

I have known Mr. Russell for over 20 years. We were partners while he was at the Fellers Snider law firm and I worked closely with him for six years when we were both appointed to be on the

Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chair U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Honorable Lindsey O. Graham, Ranking Member U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary November 6, 2023 Page 2

firm's governing Executive Committee. I have maintained contact with Mr. Russell since he left Fellers in 2015 and spoke with him most recently last month.

I know firsthand that Mr. Russell's reputation in the legal community as being a skilled attorney is well deserved. I know personally that his character is unimpeachable and that he has shown strong interpersonal skills as part of his leadership role while he was at our firm.

In my opinion, his temperament, thoughtfulness, and intelligence make him ideally suited to sit on the federal bench. Therefore, I endorse Mr. Russell's nomination unequivocally and urge the Senate to give him a swift confirmation.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Watt. Ph.D., J.D. Direct Phone: 918-231-7726

Tey & Wall

TLW:caw