

August 20, 2022

Hon. Richard Durbin  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

Hon. Charles Grassley  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

We, the signatories below, are former United States Attorneys for the Western District of Virginia, who served under presidents of both parties during the past twenty years. We write to express our strong support for the nomination of Robert S. Ballou to the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia.

Given our prior roles as United States Attorneys, we are in a unique position to evaluate the qualifications for this most important work. The federal judiciary stands as a bulwark for our American democracy, and Judge Ballou is well-suited to join the federal bench for this significant assignment. Judge Ballou understands justice and will protect the public, while building trust in the community and respecting individual rights enshrined in the Constitution. We have no doubt that Judge Ballou will excel in every facet of this weighty job.

We know Judge Ballou in various ways – as colleagues, friends, and having appeared before and worked alongside him in his role as United States Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Virginia. We can attest, through personal knowledge and by reputation, that Judge Ballou has been an even-handed and extraordinarily effective Magistrate Judge. We have routinely seen him run his courtroom with aplomb, seeking to hear out all parties in a fair and efficient manner. Judge Ballou is also a problem-solver, having successfully mediated many complex civil matters. Additionally, Judge Ballou has developed an extensive knowledge of federal criminal practice, carefully attending to the numerous federal agents who have requested criminal process and defendants who have appeared before him in pretrial matters.

Most importantly, however, Judge Ballou treats all those who come before him with a strong sense of humanity and collegiality. He enjoys the highest reputation in the legal community for his intelligence, thoughtfulness, and preparation. Judge Ballou has consistently displayed the temperament, character and work ethic necessary to make an outstanding judge. He has come to be regarded as a fair and

conscientious jurist, who upholds the highest standards of excellence in the Western District of Virginia.

In conclusion, we enthusiastically support Robert S. Ballou's nomination and respectfully recommend that he be confirmed the next United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

Respectfully,

Morgan Scott (Acting) (2000-2001)  
Honorable John L. Brownlee (2001-2008)  
Julie Dudley (Acting) (2008-2009)  
Honorable Timothy J. Heaphy (2009-2015)  
Honorable John P. Fishwick, Jr. (2015-2017)  
Daniel P. Bubar (Acting) (2020-2021)

CC: Senator Mark R. Warner  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
c/o Jay Swanson -- [jay\\_swanson@warner.senate.gov](mailto:jay_swanson@warner.senate.gov)

Senator Timothy M. Kaine  
231 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
c/o Traci Hong -- [traci\\_hong@kaine.senate.gov](mailto:traci_hong@kaine.senate.gov)

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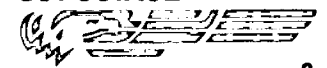
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