

Thomas M. Hayes, III
2509 Myrtle Street
Monroe, LA 71201

April 14, 2023

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

Dear Senator Durbin and Senator Graham,

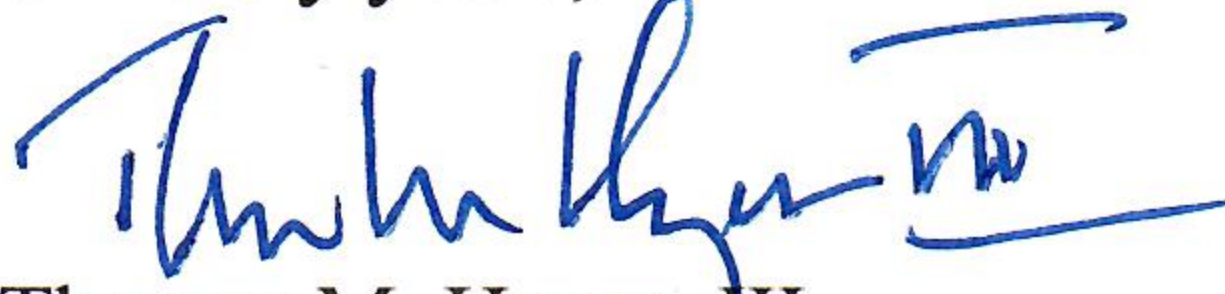
I have been a practicing attorney and member of the Louisiana State Bar Association since 1977. I have served as a council member and officer of the Louisiana State Law Institute for many years.

Over the last twenty years, I have been privileged to know Mr. Darrel J. Papillion, who has been nominated by President Biden to serve as United States District Judge of the Eastern District of Louisiana. My contacts with Darrel began when he and his firm represented parties adverse to parties represented by me and my firm; they continued thereafter on a regular basis as I encountered Darrel through his many volunteer leadership roles in the Louisiana State Bar Association, culminating in his service as its President. My contacts with Darrel continue to this day through his service as a council member of the Louisiana State Law Institute.

Darrel long ago earned and throughout this career has retained the respect of bench and bar for his ethics, professionalism, knowledge of the law and talent as a courtroom lawyer, and for his dedication to the improvement of the legal profession and the law of Louisiana, evidenced in no small part by his long service as teacher at LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center, as lecturer at meetings of multiple bar associations, and more recently as a council member of the Law Institute.

I urge the Committee to recommend Darrel's confirmation as United States District Judge. If I can be of assistance regarding Darrel, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas M. Hayes, III

cc: Nathan_Williams@Kennedy.senate.gov