

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS  
7TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COAST  
GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2012

Senator Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
US Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
US Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
152 Dirksen Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to support the appointment of Judge George L. Russell, III, to fill the vacancy on the United States District Court for the District of Maryland Northern Division. I ask that this letter be made part of the permanent record associated with the consideration of his nomination.

I have known George for many years. He presently serves as a Circuit Court Judge for the City of Baltimore. Judge Russell is a brilliant and highly respected jurist who has distinguished himself throughout his service on the bench. He has demonstrated superior legal acumen and the highest integrity. He is compassionate and fair and conducts himself with the greatest level of dignity. He is well-qualified to sit on the United States District Court.

Judge Russell has acquired a wealth of knowledge of the law and its application during his impressive career. He previously worked as a clerk with Chief Judge Robert Bell on the Maryland Court of Appeals, our state's highest court. He has also worked in private practice and with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland.

Of deep concern to me is that we maintain diversity on the federal court. In Judge Russell, you will find a highly competent jurist who, as an African American, is sensitive to the needs of people of color and disadvantaged groups. This characteristic is important not only to my constituency, but to the State of Maryland.

I am certain that George's appointment would be a source of pride for you, the legal community and the public at large. With his experience, commitment to justice and life-long dedication to public service, he would make an exceptional U.S. District Court Judge. It is with the above in mind that I urge you to advance his nomination to the full Senate.

Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

cc: Senator Barbara Mikulski  
Senator Ben Cardin

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