

**Michael R. Lufrano
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January 18, 2012

The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Senate Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Fax: 202.224.9516

The Honorable Charles Grassley, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Senate Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Fax: 202.224.9102

Re: Recommendation of John Z. Lee, nominee, United States District Court,
Northern District of Illinois.

Dear Senators:

I write in enthusiastic support of the nomination of John Z. Lee to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. I do not offer an unqualified recommendation often, but I am proud to do so in this case. Let me tell you why:

I have known John since 1989, when we were law students together. Upon graduation, we both moved to Washington, D.C., and remained friends as he worked at the Department of Justice and I in the White House. Today, I am general counsel for the Chicago Cubs baseball club and work regularly with attorneys and those at the forefront of the law in Chicago. Based on his intellect, ability and character, I know John Lee will protect the rule of law and enhance the practice of law in Illinois, if his nomination is confirmed.

I do not say this lightly. John is one of the most talented, dedicated people I know and has the ideal temperament to serve the law on the federal bench. In my experience, his integrity, commitment, enthusiasm, hard work, judgment and respect for the law are second to none. He is consistently balanced and even-tempered, thorough, respectful of colleagues and dedicated to his work. He has a superb ability to synthesize and apply the law. He is exceedingly bright and perceptive, has sound judgment and the ability to analyze issues quickly and thoroughly.

Through the years, I have watched and been regularly impressed as John's talent and intellectual ability have earned him the respect of his peers. His acumen has allowed him to approach any task or challenge with complete understanding and his communications skill and outstanding demeanor have earned him the friendship of his colleagues.

On a more personal level, I know John to have a tremendous commitment to family, a dedication to continuing education, a hunger for learning and a devotion to the law. John is committed to using his considerable talent and passion toward the pursuit of just causes and his integrity and sense of fairness are admirable.

As must be obvious by now, I offer my highest and most unqualified support for the nomination of John Z. Lee to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. There are very few people to whom I would offer such an endorsement, but John is worthy of the highest praise. As an attorney practicing primarily in Illinois, I will be proud to know the law is being guarded by judges like John Lee.

I recommend John to you without qualification and respectfully urge you to confirm his appointment to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. If you have any questions or need anything else from me, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Lufrano