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**U.S. LEGAL #088**

TO: Senator Patrick Leahy
FAX PHONE: 202/224-9516
REGION or BUSINESS NAME: United States Senate
COMMENTS: See attached. Thanks, Heather Smedstad.

FROM: Heather Smedstad
FAX PHONE: 630/623-8154
TELEPHONE: 630/623-8452
DATE: 1/19/12

NO. OF PAGES: 2
(Including Transmittal)

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THANK YOU



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January 19, 2012

VIA FACSIMILE & REGULAR MAIL

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: John Lee Nomination to the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Dear Senators Leahy and Grassley:

I write in enthusiastic support of John Lee's nomination to the federal District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. I have known John since 1997, when we practiced together in the Chicago law firm of Grippo & Elden. John was smart, hard-working and even-keeled, earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues.

After I joined McDonald's Corporation in 2000, John represented McDonald's in a number of significant matters. Now a partner at the law firm of Freeborn & Peters, John worked hard to understand our business goals, as well as the legal issues he so clearly enjoys. His respect for the law, intellectual rigor and good humor under pressure made him a valued advisor to my colleagues at McDonald's and me.

Throughout his legal career, John has not only represented corporate clients brilliantly and effectively, but also devoted many hours to representing individuals pro bono. John's commitment to the community and volunteer work is another reason I wholeheartedly support his nomination.

I believe John Lee will be an excellent addition to the prestigious bench for the Northern District of Illinois, and respectfully urge your support for his nomination.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heather Smedstad', written over a horizontal line.

Heather Smedstad
Corporate Vice President, U.S. General Counsel