



Native American Bar Association of Arizona

Promoting the development of Indian attorneys while advancing and improving the practice of Indian law in Arizona.

January 23, 2014

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224 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley

Ranking Member

Committee on the Judiciary

United States Senate

135 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of John Tuchi to the U.S. District Court in Arizona

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

The Native American Bar Association of Arizona (NABA-AZ) supports the nomination of John Tuchi to the United States District Court for the District of Arizona. Mr. Tuchi is an honest, hard working advocate whose virtues are fitting of that of a federal judge.

NABA-AZ is a nonpartisan organization committed to promoting the development of Native American attorneys and to the development of the practice of Indian law. Before endorsing any individual for a judicial appointment, NABA-AZ carefully considers the individual's background and qualifications, judicial temperament, leadership, and ability to fairly evaluate case matters. Of particular importance to NABA-AZ is an individual's ability to understand and evaluate Indian law jurisdictional issues because over a quarter of the land within Arizona is Indian Country.

Tribes and Native American people desperately need federal district court judges who are proficient in federal Indian law. Legal issues of critical importance to tribes, including the health, safety, and welfare of the individual members, are most often addressed in federal district court. When judges are not competently educated in the principles of federal Indian law, the decisions can be disastrous. For these reasons, NABA-AZ recommends that the nominees for the District Court, particularly in the District of Arizona, be competent in federal Indian law.

Consistent with these critical needs, NABA-AZ supports John Tuchi's nomination for the District of Arizona. As a lawyer and as the Chief Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Arizona, John has demonstrated principled and thoughtful decisions. It is clear that John has the qualifications to serve as a federal district judge, and the ABA has rated him substantial majority well qualified, minority qualified. Beyond his experience and commitment to public service, NABA-AZ is impressed with John's command of federal Indian law, including a demonstrated ability to apply and analyze legal issues relating to federal Indian law in the criminal context. Further, NABA-AZ is confident that John is competent in federal Indian law.

For the reasons explained above, NABA-AZ strongly urges you to confirm John Tuchi to the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sonia Martinez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S" and a stylized "M".

Sonia Martinez, President