

HUSCH BLACKWELL

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November 12, 2014

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
437 Russell Senate Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
VIA FAX: 202-224-3479

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
VIA FAX: 202-224-2499

The Honorable Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
VIA FAX: 202-224-6020

The Honorable Harry Reid
522 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
VIA FAX: 202-224-7327

Re: Stephen Bough

Dear Senators:

Having worked in Washington a number of years ago as an aide to Senator Jack Danforth on judicial appointments, I have the highest respect for the Senate's role in advising and giving consent on Presidential appointments to the federal bench, and your thoroughness in evaluating nominees must be commended.

I am chairman of the Husch Blackwell firm and understand that questions have recently been raised about the conduct of Stephen Bough in a federal court case, *Marcus Champion, et al. v. High-Tech Institute, Inc.*, in which our firm represented the opposing party. I have known Steve for 20 or more years. While I have never had a case with or against him, I know his reputation. Throughout his law practice, Steve has represented plaintiffs in litigation in federal and state court. Before practicing, Steve served as a law clerk to United States District Judge Scott Wright. Steve enjoys a reputation for effectiveness, diligence and integrity as a lawyer. I am aware of nothing in his background that would put in question his reputation for the highest level of professional conduct in the practice of law.

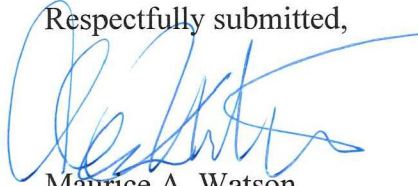
As you know, Steve entered his appearance representing a plaintiff in *Marcus Champion, et al. v. High-Tech Institute, Inc.* After entering his appearance, Judge Wright, the senior judge providing pre-trial management of the case, recused himself. I understand that the timing of Judge Wright's recusal may have created a question regarding whether Steve's entry of

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appearance in the case was motivated by some improper purpose. Based upon Steve's reputation as an attorney in this community, an inference of an improper motive for his appearance would be misguided. That Steve joined with Gene Graham in representing the plaintiffs in the case was not unusual given their preexisting relationship, and Steve's explanation of his role in the case is both persuasive and credible.

I am happy to provide any additional information that may be helpful to you or your colleagues.

Respectfully submitted,



Maurice A. Watson
Chairman

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