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June 13, 2013

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
SR-437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4502

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Minority Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
SH-135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1501

Re: Nomination of Todd M. Hughes as Circuit Judge,
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

Dear Senators Leahy and Grassley:

We write to voice strong support for the pending nomination of Todd Hughes to fill a vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. We understand that the Senate Judiciary Committee will conduct a hearing on Mr. Hughes' nomination this coming Wednesday, June 19, 2013. A favorable vote by the Judiciary Committee of Mr. Hughes' nomination at the earliest possible date would greatly facilitate the work of the Federal Circuit, a court essential to our nation's innovation and job creation through its review of patents, government contracts, trade disputes, and other matters.

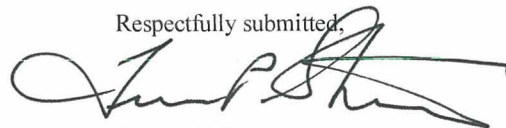
The Federal Circuit Bar Association is a national organization for the bar of the Federal Circuit and its related practice communities. Our members come from across the country and seek to serve the court. To this end, we work to unite the different interests practicing before the Circuit and the tribunals that it reviews. The Association provides a forum for dialogue among court, bar, government counsel and private practitioner members. Government practitioner members have not participated in the preparation or submission of this letter.

Mr. Hughes has been an active practitioner before the Circuit and several of the tribunals it reviews (e.g., the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and U.S. Court of International Trade) since 1994, representing the U.S. Department of Justice. In addition to experience in government contracts and international trade cases, Mr. Hughes has expertise in two other areas of the Circuit's jurisdiction—federal personnel law and veterans affairs law. Mr. Hughes has been a member of the Association since 2003, where he has assumed a variety of leadership roles, including service as co-chair of the Association's annual conference, and he has addressed that conference and the Circuit's Judicial Conference on civil service, veterans, and internal trade matters. Of particular significance, he helped lead the Association's efforts to adopt pro bono programs for veterans and civil servants.

Many members of our Association have worked with Mr. Hughes on a broad range of matters. We know that Mr. Hughes has the experience and expertise to perform very well at the Federal Circuit. We also know that Mr. Hughes has extensive exposure to, and appreciation for, the administration and processes of the Federal Circuit, having practiced before the court for so long. Mr. Hughes' unique experience and skills will make him an excellent addition to the Circuit.

If we can provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact me, tstewart@stewartlaw.com, 202-466-1241, Robert K. Huffman, Chair of our Judicial Nominations Committee, rhuffman@akingump.com, 202-887-4530, or James E. Brookshire, our Executive Director, brookshire1@fedcirbar.org, 202-558-2421.

Respectfully submitted,



Terence P. Stewart