

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
Federal Building and United States Courthouse
2005 University Boulevard
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

CHAMBERS OF
L. SCOTT COOGLER
JUDGE

October 16, 2017

Senator Chuck Grassley, Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

Senator Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510-6050

Dear Senators Grassley and Feinstein:

RE: Brett Joseph Talley, Nominee, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Alabama

I write to express my unqualified recommendation of Brett Talley for the position of United States District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama.

Since my appointment to the federal bench in 2003, I have had the opportunity to work with several fine law clerks and attorneys but rarely have any matched Brett's unique qualifications and talent. I often remark that Brett is perhaps one of the smartest individuals I have had the occasion to know. The problem with most individuals with that degree of intellect is that their intelligence is usually offset by a significant lack of common sense. Brett however, is one of those extremely rare people who possess both. Brett has demonstrated time and again his ability to rapidly discern the real issues and to just as rapidly analyze them accurately, thus making their solution manageable.

As I am certain you aware from his application, Brett is from the small town of Jasper, Alabama. His father is an engineer, and his mother retired from her secretarial job when Brett was born. Brett excelled academically and was accepted to the University of Alabama as a "Tier 1 Scholar" (now known as "The Elite Scholarship"), awarded to the top nine freshmen admitted to the University. Following Alabama, he was admitted to Harvard, where, because of his conservative values, he was somewhat of a fish out of water. Nonetheless, Brett did well at Harvard, all the while maintaining his core values.

I hired Brett to work with me for one year beginning in August 2008, but quickly realized his value and requested that he work for a second year. He was not only diligent and efficient in his research and writing but also a pleasure to have working in the office. It was thus no surprise to me that Brett went on to clerk for the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Joel Dubina.

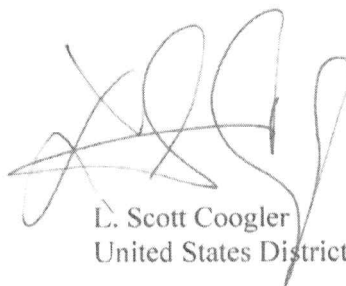
Brett also has experience as an attorney, something that is sometimes lacking in judicial

nominations. Prior to serving as my clerk, Brett worked as an attorney with Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher. Following his clerkship with Judge Dubina, he served as the Deputy Solicitor General for the State of Alabama for two years where he represented the State of Alabama before various Courts of Appeals, including the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Finally, since January 2017, Brett has served as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General with the United States Department of Justice.

Not every person who is nominated to serve as a judicial officer has the experience, qualifications, temperament, and intellect to fulfill the demands of the job—Brett Talley has each of those characteristics. I have worked with Brett in demanding and stressful circumstances and can say without qualification that Brett has what is needed to be a fine United States District Judge.

I give Brett my highest recommendation. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. Scott Coogler', with a stylized, looping flourish extending from the bottom right.

L. Scott Coogler
United States District Judge