



July 2, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Nomination of Gregory C. Cook to the Northern District of Alabama

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

I write on behalf of myself and my law partners to express our unequivocal support for the confirmation of Alabama Supreme Court Associate Justice Gregory C. Cook to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. The Hare Wynn firm is the oldest plaintiffs' law firm in Alabama. It has been my privilege to serve as Hare Wynn's managing partner for three decades. I have served in several leadership roles in our state's primary plaintiff-lawyer organization, the Alabama Association for Justice. Most of my partners are similarly active in our state plaintiff-lawyer organization and in the national American Association for Justice (AAJ).

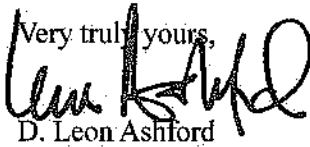
Although Greg Cook's law practice was with a premier defense-oriented law firm in Birmingham (Balch), the Hare Wynn firm supported his election campaign for a seat on the Supreme Court of Alabama, and we support his nomination for a federal-court judgeship. In adversarial law practice, we knew Greg to be a smart lawyer who practiced law the right way: with dedicated preparation and with honesty in every aspect of litigation. In his few years as an appellate judge, Justice Cook has demonstrated a high level of legal intelligence coupled with common sense.

The lawyers at Hare Wynn have also seen Greg Cook at work outside of law practice and judging. One of my partners has worked closely with Greg for many years on projects connected with the Standing Committee on the Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure. Greg is the author of the preeminent treatise on the subject, Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure Annotated. Much of Greg's out-of-court time is spent keeping this treatise constantly updated, and Greg is generally known to be the "guru" of civil procedure in Alabama. Greg's reputation in his personal life (his dedication to family, church, Boy Scouts, etc.) is impeccable.

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Greg Cook's academic qualifications are unquestioned. In addition, we believe that Greg has the proper "judicial temperament" to be an excellent federal district court judge. As an adversarial lawyer and as an appellate judge, Greg has always remained open-minded and willing to respectfully listen to advocates on all sides of an issue. We believe that Greg Cook will be a valuable addition to the federal bench and we urge his quick confirmation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Leon Ashford", written over the typed name.

D. Leon Ashford

DLA/kr