

United States Court of Appeals

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

MONTGOMERY, AL 36101-0867

JOEL F. DUBINA
U.S. CIRCUIT JUDGE

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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

RE: Nomination of Brett Joseph Talley to U.S. District Court for the Middle District
of Alabama

Dear Senators Grassley and Feinstein:

It is my honor to submit this letter of recommendation for Brett Joseph Talley who is being considered by your committee for a district judge position in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. In my opinion, Brett would be an excellent choice! In my federal judicial career, I have employed a total of 74 law clerks and staff attorneys. I put Brett at the top of the list. Brett has distinguished himself from the typical law clerk. During his time in my chambers, which was from August 2010 through December 2011, he was an invaluable addition to my chambers. He is intelligent, analytical, diligent, and a pleasure to be around. His work ethic was unmatched, and he never hesitated to offer extra assistance when it was needed. Over the years, I have prided myself on finding well-rounded individuals to work in my chambers, and Brett was no exception.

Brett was a student leader both at The University of Alabama and at Harvard Law School. It is not surprising that in addition to producing high quality work, Brett takes a devoted interest in his family, co-workers, and community. Not only does Brett enjoy a high degree of intellect, he also is blessed with common sense. Having served on the federal bench for almost 34 years, I can attest to the fact that common sense is extremely important when serving as a federal judge. Also, I can tell you that Brett is a man of impeccable integrity which, in my view, is the most important characteristic a judge can possess.

As I am certain you are aware from his resume, 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. I am sure you are also aware that Brett first clerked for United States District Judge Scott Coogler, who recommended Brett to me. Judge Coogler's assurances regarding Brett's abilities were not exaggerated.

During his time with me I found Brett engaging and thoughtful. Every now and then Brett respectfully challenged my analyses in cases, and on more than one occasion convinced me of his position.