

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
Southern District of Texas

Lyric Office Centre
440 Louisiana Street, Suite 1350
Houston, Texas 77002-1056
713.718.4600

FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER
PHILIP G. GALLAGHER

FIRST ASSISTANT
SANDRA ZAYAS

April 13, 2026

Senator Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
Senator Richard J. Durbin, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Arthur “Rob” Jones to be United States District Judge for the
Southern District of Texas

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

I have been the Federal Public Defender for the Southern District of Texas since 2024, and I previously worked as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in this district from 2004 until 2024. For more than a decade, I have known Arthur “Rob” Jones as opposing counsel in a large number of cases. Based on this experience, I write to recommend his confirmation.

Rob has always ably represented his client, the United States. His written motions and responses have been clear and precise; they have also consistently shown his skill at focusing on the important issues and avoiding distraction by less weighty aspects of a case.

I know well Rob’s skill with trial court proceedings, including his understanding of the Rules of Evidence and the law regarding jury instructions and complex pretrial motions. In 2022, Rob, along with another Assistant United States Attorney, represented the United States in a week-long trial at which I was lead counsel for the defendant. Every aspect of the case was hard fought by both sides, and Rob consistently demonstrated his skill at trial preparation and presentation.

This experience also highlighted Rob’s even, judicial temperament. Throughout the various stresses of trial and then a re-sentencing after appeal, Rob’s demeanor was invariably even and calm. In both that trial and other proceedings, Rob and I often advocated for very different outcomes. Even when vigorously disagreeing with defense arguments, Rob litigated those arguments seriously and with respect.

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I am confident that Rob's legal skills and level head will make him an asset to the bench of the Southern District of Texas.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Gallagher", written in a cursive style.

PHILIP G. GALLAGHER
Federal Public Defender
Southern District of Texas