

THE CHARLESTON GROUP

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November 16, 2026

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of William Grayson Lambert to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

I write in support of the nomination of William Grayson Lambert to serve as United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina. I offer the perspective of a trial lawyer who has spent decades in the courtrooms of this District and has given a good deal of thought to what makes a great trial judge.

I began my career as a Staff Judge Advocate, ascending to the position of Circuit Trial Counsel in the United States Air Force, prosecuting serious felonies before juries in a 12 state region, and later served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of South Carolina, prosecuting complex business, tax and environmental crimes. I have since spent most of my career trying complex business cases and defending clients in state and federal criminal matters, first as a senior Associate in the former McNair Law Firm, then a senior partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough and recruited from there to become a senior shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, and now as Of Counsel to The Charleston Group. I have also served as Chair of the panel that recommends candidates for appointment as United States Magistrate Judge in this District, and I am a permanent member of the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference.

I have known Grayson for more than eight years, a relationship which began through the South Carolina Bar's Trial and Appellate Advocacy Section. I chaired the Section from 2015 to 2018, and Grayson joined the Council in 2018 and later served as its Chair. He did an exemplary job as Chair, and I am extremely proud of his success in growing the Section in number and prestige within the South Carolina Bar.

Coincidentally when Grayson first joined the Section, we were on opposite sides of a class action litigation. The clients were "at one another's throats", making it a bitter and highly contested matter between them. I was impressed at how Grayson handled the matter with such grace, poise and dignity, despite the acrimony between our clients. We had a few hard fought hearings which he handled. At one hearing, I actually sat at my seat, enjoying watching and

listening to him in action. I specifically remember thinking, "This guy is really, really, really good. His intellect, thoroughness and advocacy…. If still at a BigLaw law firm (Nelson-Mullins or Greenberg Traurig), I would recruit him away from his present firm." He was so well prepared and persuasive at the hearings, the same as when we were "fussing and fighting" over the telephone, in meetings between lawyers and clients, as well as during mediation. Personality and savvy, combined with his legal research and penmanship… He was, and is, the full package. Grayson does not know this but when that litigation concluded, I called his law partners to brag on him. I spoke of his savvy, intellect and communication skills (both written and oral) and his respectful "bed-side manner" treatment of both me and my client, no matter the circumstance.

Grayson and I also subsequently opposed one another during a showcase mini-mock trial event at a South Carolina Bar Convention on behalf of the Trial and Appellate Advocacy Section. Hundreds of our Bar members, as well as several state and federal judges attended. It was raved about as being one of the top events at the Convention. Now, I can and will never admit that Grayson may have gotten the best of me, but will state that he came awfully close. What I thought about him, I had also heard from other South Carolina Bar members from both sides of the "v", plaintiffs' and defense lawyers alike, that he is thoughtful and well prepared. Bottom-line: he is highly respected throughout South Carolina.

When the Governor's Chief Legal Counsel selected Grayson as his Deputy, I thought it the strongest legal team a South Carolina Governor had ever had in place, and over the years they proved me right. When the Chief Legal Counsel later left to found his own law firm, Grayson succeeded him, and the office remained a powerhouse. All I hear are glowing accolades from both sides of the political aisle relating to Grayson, that he is thoughtful, extremely well prepared and respected.

As a trial judge, Grayson must rule on evidence in real time, manage juries and lawyers with patience and firmness, and move a heavy docket without sacrificing care. Those skills rest on habits that Grayson has shown throughout his career: command of the rules, rigorous preparation, and the humility to listen before deciding. Without question in my assessment, Grayson has the skills and qualities to be a highly effective District Judge. Having served as both a federal prosecutor and a criminal defense lawyer, I also know how much depends on a judge who gives the United States and the accused the same fair hearing, and who treats every litigant, represented or not, with dignity. I am confident and know that Grayson will be that kind of judge.

I recommend Grayson without reservation and in the strongest possible terms, and respectfully urge the Committee to report his nomination favorably and the Senate to confirm him.

Respectfully,

Clarence Davis

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