

September 1, 2025

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

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

Re: Nomination of James D. Maxwell II for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We write as current and former Mississippi Bar Association Presidents elected from North Mississippi and attorneys from the district to express our strong support for the nomination of James D. Maxwell II of Oxford, Mississippi, to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi.

Our two groups represent a wide range of political affiliations, legal practices, and judicial philosophies. But we all agree on one thing—that Justice Maxwell’s extensive judicial and federal trial experience, commitment to justice, and leadership in Mississippi’s legal profession uniquely qualify him to serve on the Northern District bench. We are united in support of his nomination.

For over sixteen years, Justice Maxwell has served as a judge on Mississippi’s highest courts—first on the Mississippi Court of Appeals, then on the Mississippi Supreme Court. He has authored over 500 majority opinions and participated in more than 4,600 appeals, deciding all facets of criminal and civil law. And he has been elected four times, unopposed, in non-partisan elections, from judicial districts largely mirroring the Northern District—a testament to his standing among the bench and bar and reputation as a public servant.

Justice Maxwell is also intimately familiar with this specific federal district court. Before becoming a judge, he served the Northern District of Mississippi as Assistant United States Attorney, trying and prosecuting hundreds of federal criminal offenses. From public corruption and white-collar fraud to drug trafficking, money laundering, and gang crimes, he has handled all aspects of federal criminal trial and appellate practice.

Justice Maxwell has also served in various leadership roles in the Mississippi Bar Association and local bar associations. He is a Past President of the Young Lawyers Division of the Mississippi Bar, the Lafayette County Bar, and Tri-County Young Lawyers. And his peers

selected him Fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation, an honor reserved for lawyers exemplifying the highest level of professionalism and legal competence.

For these reasons, we are confident Justice Maxwell will serve the Northern District of Mississippi with integrity, distinction, and a continued commitment to justice. We strongly support his nomination to the Northern District bench and urge the Senate to confirm him without delay.

Sincerely,

***Mississippi Bar Association Presidents
(District 1, Encompassing the Northern
District of Mississippi)***

J. Rhea Tannehill, Current
Blake Teller, 2022
Amanda Jones Tollison, 2019
W. Briggs Hopson, III, 2016
Guy W. Mitchell, III, 2013
Nina Stubblefield Tollison, 2010
Robert R. Bailess, 2007
Charles J. Swayze, Jr., 2004
W.C. "Cham" Trotter, III, 2001
Guthrie T. Abbott, 1998
L.F. Sams, Jr., 1995
Frank O. Crosthwait, Jr., 1989

***Attorneys from the Northern District of
Mississippi***

John Marshall Alexander, Former Criminal
Chief, United States Attorney's Office,
Northern District of Mississippi
Gwendolyn Baptist-Rucker
Wilton V. "Trey" Byars, III
The Honorable George C. Carlson, Former
Justice, Mississippi Supreme Court
Edward "Ted" P. Connell, Jr.
John H. Daniels, III
Thomas W. Dawson, Former First Assistant
United States Attorney, Northern District of
Mississippi
Anthony L. Farese
Steven E. Farese, Sr.
The Honorable Jim M. Greenlee, Former
Judge, Mississippi Court of Appeals
The Honorable Andrew K. Howorth, Former
Judge, Third Circuit Court District
Tom Levidiotis
J. Cal Mayo, Jr.
John D. Mayo
Floyd Melton, III
William C. Murphree
Fred C. Permenter, Jr.
Harris F. Powers, III
Rodney A. Ray
William F. Travis
Rachel Pierce Waide
The Honorable William L. Waller, Jr.,
Former Chief Justice, Mississippi Supreme
Court
James "Jay" Lowe Weir
John Wheeler