

**Statement of Introduction for Abdul Kallon
From US Representative Artur Davis (AL-7)**

I am pleased to recommend Abdul Kallon's confirmation to the United States District Court in the Northern District of Alabama. In December, 2008, as the senior Democrat in Alabama's congressional delegation, I assembled a Judicial Nominations Advisory Committee that consisted of the deans of the state's two law schools, a former United States Attorney, two former federal magistrate judges, a former United States district judge, and two former Alabama Supreme Court judges. They participated in what was unmistakably the most transparent process for recommending judicial nominees in memory. After interviews of twenty-two candidates, this committee unanimously ranked Kallon as the top candidate to succeed U.W. Clemon on the federal bench.

Mr. Kallon, a graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, is listed in The Best Lawyers in America and Chambers USA America's Leading Lawyers for Business. He is a partner in the law firm of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP, where he has worked for fifteen years. With an extensive background in employment litigation, Mr. Kallon also counsels employers on immigration compliance and employment policy and implementation. Since August 1993, when he came to work as a law clerk for Judge Clemon, Mr. Kallon has been an active member of Birmingham's civic community. Mr. Kallon is the current President of the Board of Directors of Children's Village, and serves on the Board of Directors of Girls Inc., the Alabama Center for Law and Civic Education, and the Bethel Baptist Historic Community Restoration Fund. He is the past president of the Legal Aid Society of Birmingham Board of Trustees, a former mentor in Big Brothers Big Sisters, and a member of the Alabama, Birmingham and Magic City Bar Associations.

I can attest to Mr. Kallon's reputation for excellence. I have heard Judge Clemon, who served on the advisory committee, describe Kallon as his most gifted law clerk in his 30 year experience on the bench. More importantly, he has praised Kallon as a compassionate lawyer who has brought a deep sense of integrity to the often hardnosed practice of civil defense. This is a common refrain that I have heard about Abdul Kallon from the plaintiff's bar in Alabama—while he has been on the opposite side of them at the deposition table and in the courtroom, they universally praise his intellect and his fair minded handling of his cases. I also have the benefit of knowing Mr. Kallon for eleven years as a peer. As he assumes the bench at the ripe old age of 40, he will serve as a glittering role model for young lawyers. As the years advance, I have no doubt that he will gain the reputation of being one of the outstanding federal district judges in the nation. In fact, I make a prediction--that this committee which reviews appellate and Supreme Court nominations will see Abdul Kallon seated at this table again.

I end by praising the man whose shoes Kallon will fill—U.W. Clemon. Judge Clemon made history with his ascension to the bench, but he made a more important commodity—justice—while he served. His sense of fairness leveled the playing field for litigants; he reshaped the jury

selection process to make it representative of the whole community; and he used the law to correct institutional and corporate wrongs against some of the most vulnerable members of our society. My state is a more noble place due to Judge Clemon's service.

I wish Abdul Kallon well as he embarks on this well deserved path.