

Faculty Offices
215 Centennial Drive
Stop 9003
Grand Forks, ND 58202
(701) 777-2961
Fax (701) 777-6033

May 29, 2026

Honorable Charles Grassley, Chairman
United States Senator

Honorable Richard Durbin, Ranking Member
United States Senator

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Honorable Daniel M. Traynor to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Chairman Grassley and Senator Durbin:

I write to express my enthusiastic support for the nomination of the Honorable Daniel M. Traynor to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

I have been a member of the faculty at the University of North Dakota School of Law since 2010. From 2019 to 2022, I served as the Dean of the School of Law. Prior to my career in academia, I serve as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Randy J. Holland of the Delaware Supreme Court for one year, and then practiced law for sixteen years, including twelve as a Disciplinary Counsel with a wide range of responsibilities for the regulation of the legal profession. My academic teaching and scholarship are significantly devoted to professional responsibility and legal ethics, and over my years in North Dakota I have served more than twelve years on the Joint Committee on Attorney Standards, including two terms (and currently) as its Chair.

I have known Judge Traynor for about fifteen years, having first met him when he served as the Chair of the North Dakota Lawyer Disciplinary Board and I provided trainings for its members, who serve the public and the bar as volunteers and without compensation for their efforts. He and I became good friends, and I had numerous opportunities to get to know him better over the years. Throughout the time I have known him, he has impressed me with his strong work ethic and intellect, his dedication to public service, and his sound ethical and practical judgment.

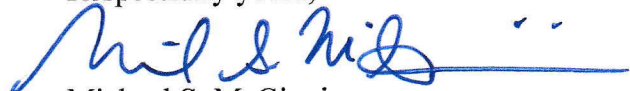
Nomination of Honorable Daniel M. Traynor to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals
May 29, 2026
Page 2

In 2019, when I was announced as the new Dean of the School of Law and he was serving on the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education, Judge Traynor was enormously helpful in guiding my efforts to obtain increased legislative funding and other financial support to turn around what had become a very dire fiscal and enrollment situation for our School of Law. With the significant outpourings of various kinds of support we received, I am very pleased that School of Law not only completed a successful ABA re-accreditation in 2021, but also significantly expanded its enrollments and its greatly enhanced its educational programs for its students, with substantial benefits to the public and the legal profession in North Dakota. During my years as the Dean, I also had the privilege of serving with Judge Traynor on the Board of Governors of the State Bar of North Dakota, and was very pleased and proud to support his nomination to the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota.

Judge Traynor cares deeply about the law and its great traditions, and has been generous with his time and talents in supporting our law students both during their legal education, and in the years after their graduation. Through my active involvement in our North Dakota legal community, I can attest to his strong reputation not only for excellence in legal knowledge and skills, but also for being a person of outstanding integrity and a credit to our profession. He has a breadth of valuable experience in private practice and on the federal district court bench that make him tremendously well-prepared for the work for which he would be responsible on the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. I have great confidence that he would be a trustworthy and highly ethical circuit judge, and exhibit superb temperament and wisdom in performing the important duties of his judicial office. He therefore has my enthusiastic support as you consider his nomination for this position.

If there are any questions for which I could be helpful, I would be pleased to talk more about Judge Traynor and his outstanding qualities and qualifications. My direct dial is 701-777-0588.

Respectfully yours,



Michael S. McGinniss

Professor & J. Philip Johnson Faculty Fellow