



UNITED TRIBES[®]
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

3315 University Drive | Science & Tech Building
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504
701.221.1554 | www.uttc.edu

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 Daniel M. Traynor to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals

Dear Chairman Grassley and Senator Durbin:

I am pleased to offer my strong support for the nomination of Judge Daniel M. Traynor to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. I have known Judge Traynor since January 2021 through my work as a Professor of Criminal Justice at United Tribes Technical College, during which I have regularly brought students to observe proceedings in the U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota. Over the past five years, my students and I have consistently observed his professionalism, fairness, patience, and respect for all who appear before his court.

What most distinguishes Judge Traynor is his commitment to public education and student engagement. After court sessions, he routinely takes time to speak with our students about the federal judiciary and the role of the courts, providing meaningful insight into the justice system. These experiences are especially impactful for many of our first-generation Native American students, who often have limited prior exposure to the federal courts. His accessibility and thoughtful explanations leave a lasting educational impression, and students consistently return from these visits with a deeper understanding of both the legal process and the dignity with which proceedings are conducted.

One particularly memorable experience occurred when my Constitutional Law students attended a federal change-of-plea hearing involving serious criminal charges. Judge Traynor's careful and deliberate explanation of the defendant's constitutional rights and the consequences of a guilty plea provided an exceptional real-world lesson on due process and the protections of the Fifth and Sixth Amendments. Judge Traynor exemplifies the integrity, temperament, and judicial excellence required of the federal bench, and I am confident he will serve the Eighth Circuit with the same fairness, courtesy, and dignity he demonstrates in the district court. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support his nomination and confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding my letter of support.

Respectfully yours,

Mark R. Turner
Professor of Criminal Justice
United Tribes Technical College

Leadership begins here.
