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September 11, 2024

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Nomination of Zach West to the United States District
Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma**

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We write in support of Zach West, to the seat on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma. The Committee should report the nomination favorably and the Senate should confirm him.

We are current and former State Solicitors General and senior staff in State Attorney General offices across the country. The state appellate bar is small. Fifty-odd offices file the multistate amicus briefs, divide the argument time, and litigate the federal-state cases that reach the Supreme Court, and the same few dozen lawyers do that work year after year. We circulate drafts to each other before they are filed. We call each other about extensions, joint appendices, and consolidated argument. Over enough years, a lawyer's reputation inside that group is earned. Mr. West's reputation is that he is careful, that his word holds, and that he is a conscientious litigator that will be a benefit to the litigants in Oklahoma.

Mr. West has served nearly a decade in one office, under three attorneys general. He joined the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office after clerking for Judge L. Leon Holmes of the Eastern District of Arkansas and Judge Bobby R. Baldock of the Tenth Circuit. He served as deputy solicitor general, as acting solicitor general, then solicitor general, and he currently served as Director of Special Litigation under Attorney General Gentner Drummond. In 2020 he shared in the bipartisan National Association of Attorneys General's Best Brief Award.

Mr. West has been a committed defender of the State and state laws in his various roles in the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office. Even on Oklahoma's cutting edge docket, he has had some standout wins. Twice last term, Mr. West served as counsel of record at the U.S. Supreme Court in cases that the Supreme Court reversed and remanded at the close of the term. Two GVRs in one term reflect careful judgment by an attorney paying attention to issues worth preserving and presenting to the Supreme Court—and winning.

More, he has been trained for this particular job twice over. A year in a federal district court taught him what a trial record looks like from the bench and how quickly a judge must decide. A year on the Tenth Circuit taught him what that court expects the record to contain when it arrives. Mr. West is well-placed to serve as an excellent district court judge.

The Committee should report the nomination favorably, and the Senate should confirm Zach West.

Respectfully,

Eric H. Wessan
Iowa Solicitor General

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