

Leon Holmes
Arbitration and Mediation

Office address:
425 W. Capitol Ave. Suite 1247
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

(501) 247-2454
leon@holmesadr.com

Mailing Address:
501 McAdoo Street
Little Rock, AR 72205

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate 135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate 711 Hart 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:

I am a former judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. I transitioned to inactive senior status on September 30, 2019, and I resigned my commission the following February. I write in support of the nomination of Zach West, one of my former law clerks, to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

As is evident from his resume, the details of which you already know, Zach is a highly intelligent, gifted lawyer, with an outstanding academic record and years of experience as a lawyer. He demonstrated his intelligence and gifts as a legal mind during his two-year term as a law clerk in my chambers. We were a busy trial court. We presided over cases of virtually every sort, both criminal and civil, ruling on motions to dismiss for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, motions to compel, motions for protective orders, motions to suppress, Daubert motions, motions to set aside verdicts, motions for judgment

notwithstanding the verdict, and so forth. Likewise, we presided over a great variety of trials, criminal and civil, jury and nonjury. As a law clerk, Zach assisted me at every stage of a proceeding from the filing of the complaint or the indictment to the final judgment. His research was comprehensive, his writing was outstanding, and his judgment was valuable to me. He was actively involved in assisting me in numerous trials, helping me prepare for trial, assisting with respect to legal issues that arose during trial, writing jury instructions, and otherwise helping in whatever came up. He worked hard. When the situation demanded, he would move with dispatch. When time permitted, he would pursue an issue at whatever depth needed to find the answer. I am grateful that he served in my chambers and worked with me as a valued colleague.

I should add that Zach is a person of high moral character, devoted to his family, his community, and our great nation. He is honest and trustworthy. He is intellectually honest in discerning and following the law whether or not the law accords with his own beliefs. He has an excellent judicial temperament. I recommend him highly.

Respectfully yours,
Leon Holmes