

William K. Suter
Clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court (Ret.)
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February 24, 2014

Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
U. S. Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Minority Member, Judiciary Comm
U. S. Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

I am honored to submit this letter of recommendation in support of John C. Cruden who is under consideration for appointment to be the Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Natural Resources Division.

I have known John since the early 1970s when we served together as career Army Judge Advocates. He first came to my attention when I was director of JAG Personnel. I was always on the lookout for young officers with great potential. John was at the top of my list. His past assignments as a combat arms officer in Vietnam and, after law school, as a Judge Advocate, reflected that he had "the right stuff." He quickly proved himself as a talented attorney, manager and leader. He is also very scholarly. His seminal article on the War Powers Resolution continues to be cited by scholars and appellate courts as the defining work on that contentious law.

My predictions about John were correct. He quickly moved through the ranks to the top, performing superbly in every assignment. In the early 1980s, when I was Commandant of the Judge Advocate General's School, I requested that he be assigned to the School to head the most important academic division. He was so assigned. His work exceeded my expectations. I relied on him for the most difficult assignments. On one occasion, the Chief of Staff of the Army appointed me, a Colonel, to conduct a study of the Army-wide confusing issue of fraternization. I tasked John with demanding tasks that had to be accomplished in a short period. He produced just what was needed. The policies the study group developed continue in existence today.

John is one of the very best officers with whom I served in three decades in the Army. He demonstrated his exceptional abilities time and again. He was admired and respected by subordinates, peers, and superiors. He sets and maintains high standards and has an unimpeachable character.

I strongly recommend John for this appointment. The Department of Justice and our Nation will benefit greatly by his talent and leadership.

Sincerely,

