

*United States v. Long*, Judge Thomas reversed a firearm conviction of an individual in a drug case. Even though a jury had found that there was sufficient evidence for the conviction, Judge Thomas, in rather strong language, indicated that his role as an appellate judge would not allow him to simply sit by when there was clearly insufficient evidence to sustain the conviction, so in that particular case he reversed.

The point that I think needs to be made to the committee is that Judge Thomas has shown through his criminal decisions that he is supportive of law enforcement, yet he has struck the appropriate balance and has also shown that he intends to be fair to the accused. I think that is all we can ask of a judge. I think that his qualifications in this area are clear and, on behalf of the National Troopers Coalition, I would urge this committee's endorsement.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. Suthard.

#### STATEMENT OF BOB SUTHARD

Mr. SUTHARD. Chairman Biden, members of the Judiciary Committee, I am Robert L. Suthard. I am the Secretary of Public Safety in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I want to express my sincere appreciation for the honor of being able to appear before you and add the endorsement of the International Association of Chiefs of Police for Judge Thomas. I am the second vice president of IACP, and there are presently in excess of 8,000 police chiefs across America who are members of IACP.

The governing body of our organization carefully reviewed the background and experience of Judge Thomas before voting to support his confirmation as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Suffice it to say that we are really impressed with his personal background, with his legal training, his diverse legal experience, and his record as a jurist, especially in the area of crime and criminal justice issues. We believe him to be extremely well qualified to serve on the highest court in the United States.

Our governing body determined that Judge Thomas is a tough anticrime judge who has recognized the problems that law enforcement officers face in combating crime. As an example, he has resisted efforts to impose unreasonably burdensome requirements on the police and prosecutors or to overturn criminal convictions on technicalities that are not required by the Constitution, and at the same time he has guarded against infringement on the fundamental rights of the criminal defendants.

His decision in *United States v. Long*, *United States v. Rogers*, and *United States v. Wooly* all highlight his commitment to the tough law enforcement of our criminal laws and a common sense and reality based on a reasonable approach of judging in this society, both of which are consonant with the stated policy of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

We believe that Judge Thomas was nominated by President Bush to be a Supreme Court Justice because of his fidelity to the Constitution and the rule of law. We believe that he will interpret the

Constitution fairly and apply the laws equally. These qualities, coupled with his education and experience, make him highly qualified for the position of Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

For these reasons, the governing body of IACP, meeting on August 10, in New York City, voted to endorse his nomination. I am pleased to add IACP's endorsement of Judge Thomas to his long list of endorsements. We give him our unqualified support during these confirmation hearings. We urge you gentlemen and Members of the Senate to speedily confirm his nomination.

I want to say personally, as I conclude, that I have been a policeman since 1954. I started as a trooper in the Virginia State Police. I worked up through the ranks and I was appointed as superintendent of the State police, and now serve in the cabinet as the secretary of public safety.

I sincerely believe that the Supreme Court Justices, each of them, are as important to us being able to do a proper job to protect the people as anything else. I have followed the system, I have read a lot about Judge Thomas, and I just feel that he is a very qualified person to serve on the Supreme Court.

Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. Collins.

#### STATEMENT OF JOHN COLLINS

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is very nice to be back here and see you all again. My name is Jack Collins, and I am the eastern regional representative and director of Citizens for Law and Order, CLO.

Our grass roots organization of citizen activists was founded more than 21 years ago in Oakland, CA, by four concerned citizens who felt very deeply about the growth of violent crime in their city and in their Nation. For the past two decades, our organization has successfully encouraged ordinary citizens to become more directly involved in the criminal justice system and to support law enforcement agencies and other organs of justice.

We are committed, gentlemen, to the reduction of violent crime in America and to ensuring a balanced and fair criminal justice system, and we want to root out inequities in the judicial process. We also hold a very special concern for victims and survivors of violent crime and we try to ensure for them a position of centrality in the criminal justice system.

I speak from experience; I am a victim; I am a survivor. Our 19-year-old lovely daughter Susanne was viciously and brutally murdered 6 years ago, in July 1985, and since that date I and my wife, Trudy, and our son, Steven, have become all too familiar with the criminal justice system.

It is against this backdrop of concern and commitment that we look at the U.S. Supreme Court as a very, very telling instrument in bringing about a healthy, fair, and just criminal justice system. Its decisions on criminal law impact not only on individual litigants, but also they resonate forcefully throughout the Federal court system and the State court system.