

berg, to introduce Michael Chertoff. I think he is one of the terrific people of my State and of the Nation, served our Nation well already in many, many roles. I sometimes think I should recuse myself because he is also a personal friend. I believe very much in both the quality and character of the man. I welcome his family as well.

Senator Lautenberg reviewed some of the ways that he has served our State and Nation extraordinarily ably, and I think he will do the same as a circuit judge in the important Third Circuit.

Impeccable credentials, whether it is the editor of law review, Supreme Court law clerk, U.S. Attorney, or Assistant Attorney General for criminal matters at the Justice Department, in every job he has taken on his role with great professionalism and excellence, and I am sure he will do so on the bench.

Many of us consider him New Jersey's "lawyer laureate." I will agree with that label that a number of our newspapers have placed him under. But I do want to acknowledge—and I think it is important in the context of sometimes the debates we have with regard to judges—that you can actually support and be very enthusiastic about the nomination of someone to the bench who you don't always agree with on all issues. And that is certainly the case with Mr. Chertoff. But his temperament and his commitment to precedent and his character in my mind suit well the role of an appellate judge, and I am just honored to further place his name before the Committee and ultimately in front of the Senate floor.

So I think I will leave my full statement to be placed in the record, but let it be known that this Senator thinks this is one of the finest lawyers and one of the finest legal minds we have in the country.

Chairman HATCH. Well, thank you, Senator Corzine. That is high praise, and we are honored to have you here to give this statement. I share all of your feelings with regard to Michael Chertoff and I think almost all of us do. In fact, I hope all of us do in the Senate because of the great service he has given. But thank you for taking time to be with us today. I appreciate it.

Senator FEINSTEIN, we will go to you, and then we will go to Senator Sessions, and then I will give my statement.

PRESENTATION OF CONSUELO MARIA CALLAHAN, NOMINEE TO BE CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, BY HON. DIANNE FEINSTEIN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Senator FEINSTEIN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I know that Senator Boxer has already introduced Consuelo "Connie" Callahan, so I am going to be very brief.

As you well know, she currently serves in the California State court system as an appellate judge on the State's Third District Court of Appeals. That is located in Sacramento. I think she is incredibly uncontroversial for someone coming out of our State. I always seem to see the controversy surrounding an individual. There is none here. She was born in Palo Alto. She grew up in my home area, the San Francisco Bay area. She actually attended my alma mater, Stanford. She was graduated with honors. She then attended the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. She

has essentially spent a good deal of time as a government lawyer, a city attorney for the city of Stockton, then joined the San Joaquin district attorney's office as a deputy D.A. In that office, she established the county's first Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Unit. She has personally handled over 50 jury trials during her tenure as a prosecutor.

In 1986, she became a commissioner of the Stockton Municipal Court, and 6 years later she was appointed to the San Joaquin County Superior Court. In 1996, she was elevated to the State Court of Appeal where she has served since.

All ten justices who serve with Justice Callahan in the Third Appellate District have written in support of her nomination. She is qualified. They say she has the integrity, the capacity, the congeniality, and the diligence to serve with distinction on the Ninth Circuit, and I would ask that my full remarks be entered into the record.

Chairman HATCH. Without objection, we will put your full remarks in. We appreciate that.

Senator FEINSTEIN. Thanks very much.

[The prepared statement of Senator Feinstein appears as a submission for the record.]

Chairman HATCH. Senator Sessions, we will turn to you.

PRESENTATION OF L. SCOTT COOGLER, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, BY HON. JEFF SESSIONS, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ALABAMA

Senator SESSIONS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to briefly comment on Mr. Chertoff's nomination. I had the honor of serving with him in President Bush's administration as United States Attorney. He had a reputation then and maintains it as one of the most effective lawyers in the Department of Justice. He took on challenging criminal cases in that district, from organized crime to public corruption, obtained convictions of Mafia members and powerful politicians. He was a fearless and skilled prosecutor of great integrity, and, of course, he has continued that record of achievement at the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice now where he spearheaded some of America's most important law enforcement priorities of our time. He has testified before this Committee with great skill, and there is just no doubt about it that people in the know about the Department of Justice over the last 20 years, they would rank Michael Chertoff as one of the best lawyers to have served in that body and that institution. That is a high compliment. His record backs that up, and I think it is great that he has been nominated.

Mr. Chairman, I want to mention the superb nominee from Alabama, Scott Coogler, Judge Scott Coogler. He has the academic background, legal competence, and judicial temperament necessary for service on the bench he demonstrated during his 4 years as a State judge on the Alabama Sixth Judicial Circuit in Tuscaloosa County. By all accounts, he has served with distinction and garnered the respect of all the attorneys practicing in that area.

He has received his bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Alabama. In 1984, he graduated from the University of