

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

Alabama School of Law, finishing in the top of his class. He clearly has the intellect to serve on the bench. He practiced law for close to 15 years, which I think is an important attribute of a good judge. He had a broad base of clients, handling civil and criminal issues. He understands the courtroom as a litigant, tried many cases to a verdict as a trial lawyer as an associate and chief and sole counsel on important cases. He has learned how participants in lawsuits should be treated.

In 1999, he joined the State bench. He has shown that he adheres to the rule of law. He is not affected by politics. I talked to a lot of lawyers in the Tuscaloosa area who practice before him. They are very impressed with Judge Coogler. Defense lawyers who thought, well, he had done a lot of plaintiff work, they were a little nervous. They found that he treats people fairly, plaintiffs and defendants, criminal lawyers and prosecutors. They told me they do not win all the time in court, but they believe he is a straight shooter who follows the law. I certainly agree with that and am supportive of him.

His public service extends beyond the courtroom. From 1988 to 1991, he served as a captain in the Judge Advocate General in the Alabama Army National Guard, and he has done more than his share of community service. He served as president of the University of Alabama Law Enforcement Academy Alumni Association, director of the Tuscaloosa Boys and Girls Club since 1999, director since 2000 of a group called FOCUS on Senior Citizens, which aids seniors in remaining independent and active. In addition, he served as the director for Miracle Riders, a program in which mentally and physically disabled children are taught how to ride and care for a horse.

This is a man who has deep connections to his community, high values and high ideals, a proven record of legal competence and integrity. I think he is a great nominee, Mr. Chairman, and I am pleased the President has submitted his name.

Chairman HATCH. Well, thank you, Senator.

Senator SESSIONS. I also would note, Mr. Chairman, he was rated unanimously well qualified, the highest possible rating by the American Bar Association.

Chairman HATCH. Thank you, Senator. That is great praise, as far as I am concerned.

I wonder if we can have all three of you nominees come to the table, and we will swear you all in, if you will remain standing. Please raise your right arms. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. CHERTOFF. I do.

Justice CALLAHAN. I do.

Judge COOGLER. I do.

Chairman HATCH. Please take your seats. Normally we would take the two circuit court nominees first, but we are going to put all three of you at the table so that we can move expeditiously.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ORRIN G. HATCH, A U.S.  
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF UTAH**

Chairman HATCH. Let me just say that Consuelo Callahan, our nominee for the Ninth Circuit, has had an exemplary legal career