

Testimony for Senator Richard Shelby regarding the nomination of Scott
Coogler to be United States District Court Judge for the Northern
District of Alabama
May 7, 2003

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to address the Senate Judiciary Committee. I am glad to be here today as the Committee considers the nomination of Judge Scott Coogler to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to introduce such an outstanding individual. Accompanying Judge Coogler today are his wife, Mitzi, and his three children, Carlson, Hannah, and Allie.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Judge Coogler for a number of years as he is a resident of my hometown of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Based on my personal experience, I can say that he has a long record of service to the community. Prior to entering the legal profession, Judge Coogler graduated from the University of Alabama's Law Enforcement Academy with honors, after which he served for two years as a police

officer for the City of West Blocton, Alabama. Though no longer a member of the police force, he has served as guest instructor at the University of Alabama's Law Enforcement Academy since 1984. Judge Coogler is also an active volunteer, serving on the Board of Directors for the Tuscaloosa County Boys and Girls Club, the American Christian Academy, FOCUS on Seniors, and "A Woman's Place," a drug treatment center.

Mr. Chairman, Judge Coogler received both his undergraduate and law degrees from my alma mater, the University of Alabama, receiving his Bachelors of Arts with *cum laude* honors and graduating near the top of his law school class. After completing law school, Judge Coogler practiced for over fourteen years in the private sector where he represented clients on both the plaintiff and defense side in civil matters, in addition to representing clients in criminal matters. He also served as a member of the Alabama Army National Guard as part of the Judge Advocate General's Corps, where he attained the rank of Captain before he was honorably discharged in 1997. In 1998, Judge Coogler was elected to be a Circuit Court Judge for Alabama's Sixth Judicial District,

a position he still holds, where he has already handled over 4,000 criminal and civil cases, including a high profile case involving the attempted murder of a police officer by a prison escapee.

Mr. Chairman, Judge Coogler's extensive legal experience makes him an ideal attorney to fill the current judicial vacancy on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. Throughout his legal career, he has demonstrated unwavering integrity and commitment to upholding the Constitution and the rule of law. I am confident that Judge Coogler will serve on the federal bench with honor and distinction. For these reasons, I unequivocally support his nomination.

Given the large number of vacancies on the federal bench, I urge the Committee to consider his nomination expeditiously so that the full Senate has an opportunity to confirm him in a timely manner. Thank you again Mr. Chairman for allowing me to appear before the Committee today.