

He has been listed as one of the beset lawyers in America since 1991. He has been elected as a fellow to the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. He is also endorsed by the Connecticut Bar Association as "exceptionally well-qualified" to be a District Judge, and has been unanimously rated as "well-qualified" by the American Bar Association.

Mark has represented a very diverse array of clients, Mr. Chairman, over the years, including private institutions such as Yale University and organizations representing public interests such as the Stamford Zoning Board. He has extensive experience with land use law, zoning regulations, and has also published considerable material on the issues of privacy and the evolution of internet law.

He is also very well-respected for his efforts to keep government open and acceptable. He was director of the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government and in 1995 received the Deane C. Avery Award for advancing the cause of freedom of information and freedom of speech in Connecticut.

Mr. Chairman, I think this is particularly important given the time in which we live, in an age when many are concerned that the desire for national security may lead to the erosion of core American rights such as freedom of speech and information. I believe it is an integral part of our judicial system that we have judges who are of a deep respect and understanding for these Constitutional principles and who will be charged with upholding and defending our Constitution.

Mark Kravitz possesses a deep commitment to these civil liberties, and I know he will be a fine judge. For those reasons, Mr. Chairman, I would ask that the remainder of my remarks be included in the record and highly comment this nomination to you and to the Committee. My colleague Joe Lieberman would do so as well, and I presume he will be submitting a statement to that effect.

This is a wonderful nomination. We thank Governor Rowland, and I think you will find that the entire delegation is strongly behind this nomination. It is a first-class nomination and will do us all very proud.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Thank you very much for appearing on behalf of Mr. Kravitz, and while you may be in the minority, when it comes to being a great American, you are very much in the majority; you are truly one, and Mr. Kravitz is very fortunate to have you here recommending him today, Chris, so thank you very much.

Senator DODD. Thank you, Saxby, very much.

Chuck, thank you, too.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Senator Snowe?

**PRESENTATION OF JOHN A. WOODCOCK, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE, BY HON. OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MAINE**

Senator SNOWE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I thank you for the opportunity today to be able to introduce to you John Woodcock, the President's nominee for Federal Judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine in Bangor and to express my strong and unequivocal support for his nomination.

Mr. Chairman, Maine's U.S. District Court has a long and storied history. It is one of the first such courts that was established in 1789, and remarkably, should John Woodcock be confirmed, he will become only the 16th judge appointed by the President of the United States in its 213-year history.

Mr. Chairman, Maine has an established and well-deserved reputation for selecting outstanding trial judges, and I can say without hesitation or reservation that John Woodcock will not only uphold but enhance this reputation, and his tenure will reflect the finest ideals and expectations of our Federal judiciary and the people it exists to serve.

The position for which Mr. Woodcock has been nominated is the lone Federal judge position in northern Maine. So with the vacancy created almost a year ago by Judge Gene Carter's elevation to senior judicial status, it is critical that it be filled as expeditiously as possible, so I appreciate the promptness and the responsiveness of this Committee to this confirmation.

With a nominee of Mr. Woodcock's exceptional caliber, I can think of no one more qualified to make that happen, and I am confident that as you become more familiar with John Woodcock's record and qualifications, you will agree that he has the depth of experience, the temperament, and the integrity demanded by the gravity of the office for which he has been chosen.

With roots deep in the Bangor community—in fact, his family has been there for generations—John grew up in Maine's third-largest city. He attended John Bapst High School in the heart of downtown. He went on to further his education and graduated from Bowdoin College and the University of Maine School of Law before completing his master's degree at the London School of Economics—but we have forgiven him for that mild transgression of leaving the State for a few years—as he returned thereafter to his home and began his law career in Bangor 26 years ago.

Today, he is with the Bangor law firm of Woodcock, Weatherbee, Burlock, and Woodcock, having argued 46 cases before the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. He has also served on the Maine Supreme Judicial Court Advisory Committee on Professional Responsibility.

It is no surprise, Mr. Chairman, that John Woodcock has garnered deep respect and strong support in Maine and nationally. The American Bar Association unanimously named John Woodcock as "well-qualified."

In Maine, the Federal Judicial Nomination Advisory Committee that Senator Collins and I assembled, with over 270 combined years of practicing law, selected John Woodcock as their top recommendation, reflecting the esteem in which he is held by the entire legal community in the State of Maine. And former Senator and Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen has said of John that in his years of practice, John has developed a statewide reputation as a skilled litigator and an effective counselor. He has deep experience in litigation at trial and appellate levels and is well-regarded throughout the Maine Bar.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask that a copy of Secretary Cohen's letter be included in the record of proceedings.

Mr. Chairman, to that, I would only add from my layman's point of view that the best trial judges are distinguished by their ability

to balance several sometimes competitive personal dynamics. They balance broad life exposure with specific courtroom experiences, raw legal aptitude with common sense, patience with firmness, and intellectual curiosity with focused decisionmaking.

Well, John Woodcock has proven his ability to display all these vital traits, plus one more—the ability to balance work with family. I am delighted, Mr. Chairman, to tell you that his family is here today—his sons, Patrick, Chris, and Jack, who works on the Governmental Affairs Committee for Senator Collins, and of course, his great wife, Beverly.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, I am most proud to be able to come before this Committee to introduce to you a candidate with the credentials that Mr. Woodcock possesses in abundance. With his substantial and broad legal and courtroom experience as well as his keen intellect and perspective, solid character, and outstanding reputation, he has the ability to manage a challenging docket.

So I am convinced that you will leave this hearing, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, as impressed with John Woodcock as we all have been in Maine.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Thank you, Senator Snowe. We look forward to hearing from Mr. Woodcock a little later.

Senator Alexander?

Senator ALEXANDER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I wonder if Senator Collins would like to go ahead, Mr. Chairman, since we were talking about the Maine judge.

Senator CHAMBLISS. That would be very gracious on your part.

Senator Collins, we will be glad to hear from you, and then probably Senator Frist, before we get back to you, Senator Alexander.

Senator SCHUMER. Are there any objections to that, Senator Alexander?

[Laughter.]

**PRESENTATION OF JOHN A. WOODCOCK, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE, BY HON. SUSAN COLLINS, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MAINE**

Senator COLLINS. First, let me apologize to my colleague that I was not here for her statement.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, and members of this distinguished panel. It is my distinct pleasure to speak on behalf of John Woodcock's nomination to be a District Judge for the District of Maine.

I have known John and his wife Beverly for many years. In fact, John recruited me many years ago to serve on the board of Eastern Maine Medical Center which he has chaired for 23 years. This is typical of John's service to his community. He has devoted countless hours volunteering his time and energy to his alma mater, Bowdoin College, Eastern Maine Charities, the Maine State Commission on Arts and Humanities, the Good Samaritan Agency, and the Bangor Children's Home, to name just a few.

The Woodcock family has a proud tradition of public service that spans generations. In fact, two of John's sons, I am pleased to say, have worked as members of my staff. His son Jack currently serves on my Governmental Affairs Committee staff, while his son Patrick