



UNITED STATES SENATOR · MAINE
SUSAN COLLINS
P R E S S R E L E A S E



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**Statement of Senator Susan M. Collins
Nomination Hearing of John A. Woodcock
to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine**

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. John recruited me several 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, just to name a few.

The Woodcock family has a tradition of public service that spans generations. Two of John's sons have worked as members of my staff. Jack currently serves on my Government Affairs Committee staff, while Patrick worked for me in my Bangor office. Their hard work and professional demeanor is proof that the apple does not fall far from the tree. I am pleased that they could be here today for this hearing.

Let me tell you more about John Woodcock's qualifications to be a federal judge. He began practicing law nearly 30 years ago, and has built a distinguished career as a litigator. John has served as an Assistant District Attorney for the State of Maine, and has worked in private practice as an associate and member of several law firms in Maine. In 1991, he joined several

colleagues to form the Bangor law firm of Weatherbee, Woodcock, Burlock & Woodcock.

During his career, John has served as lead counsel in 47 separate appeals to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court on issues ranging from criminal law to trust law.

John has also taken an active role in improving the standards of the legal profession, serving on the Maine Supreme Judicial Court's Advisory Committee on Professional Responsibility. As a member of this Committee, John worked to draft a series of aspirational goals to help guide lawyers who elect to advertise with their professional obligations in this area.

Those of us familiar with John's sterling character and stellar legal career were not surprised when the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated him as "well qualified." Indeed, it would be difficult to come up with any candidate better suited to serve as a federal judge in the State of Maine.

John has the intelligence, temperament, and integrity to serve on the federal bench. I have every confidence that he will faithfully follow the law as interpreted by higher courts and bring justice to the parties before him. I wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support John Woodcock's nomination for a federal district court judgeship, and I hope that the Committee will unanimously approve his nomination.

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