

were honored to recommend Anthony Trenga for the Federal bench in the Eastern District of Virginia. He is an exceptionally skilled attorney and, in my view, he will make an outstanding Federal judge.

Anthony Trenga has been practicing law before Federal courts in Virginia for more than 30 years. He has served as lead counsel in more than 50 cases before the Federal court in the Eastern District of Virginia on a wide range of subject areas. Since 1998, Mr. Trenga has worked at the law firm of Miller and Chevalier, where he specializes in litigation and trial practice. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and has served as a member of the faculty of the National Trial Advocacy College at the University of Virginia, sponsored by the Virginia CLE Committee of the Virginia Bar Foundation.

Mr. Trenga received his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law and completed his undergraduate studies at Princeton University. Upon graduation, he was a law clerk to the Honorable Ted Dalton, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia from 1974 to 1975.

From 1982 to 1998, Mr. Trenga was a partner at Sachs, Greenbaum & Tayler in Washington, DC, and a managing partner at Hazel & Thomas based in Fairfax, VA.

Equally impressive to his legal career, though, is that despite the rigors of a busy legal practice, Mr. Trenga has always found time to be actively involved in community affairs. In addition to participating in his firm's pro bono program, Mr. Trenga serves as chairman and member of the Alexandria Human Rights Commission, the board of directors of the Northern Virginia Urban League, the board of trustees of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, and the board of directors for the Bethesda Center of Excellence.

It is clear to me that Anthony Trenga is eminently qualified to sit as a jurist on this illustrious court. I note that the American Bar Association and the Virginia State Bar concur in this assessment, as both have given him their highest rating.

I thank the committee for favorably reporting this exemplary nominee to the full Senate, and I urge my colleagues to vote to confirm him.

NOMINATION OF MARY STENSON SCRIVEN

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I share with my colleague, Senator NELSON, great gratitude for the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, as well as Ranking Member SPECTER, for moving forward with judicial nominations. One of those is of great importance to the State of Florida and deals with the Middle District of Florida, where there have been a couple of vacancies. This is a district that continues to grow in population but does not have a commensurate growth in judges on the bench.

I am delighted that we have moved the confirmation of Mary Scriven to

the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. Magistrate Judge Mary Scriven is an outstanding attorney and a terrific public servant. She has been serving with great distinction as a magistrate judge and will serve with great distinction as a U.S. district judge.

In 1987, after earning her undergraduate degree from Duke University, she then went on to Florida State University College of Law, where I happened to have gone to law school myself. I am delighted that Judge Scriven and I share that bit of heritage. She then entered the private practice of law in Tampa with the law firm of Carlton Fields. There is no finer firm in Florida than Carlton Fields. Judge Scriven eventually became a partner there before going on to a life of public service, becoming a magistrate in 1997.

In December of 1997, Judge Scriven was selected to serve an 8-year term as a Federal magistrate judge. She was reappointed to another 8-year term in 2005. In her 11 years as a magistrate judge, Judge Scriven has proven herself to be a committed public servant. She has a tremendous amount of courtroom experience, both in civil and criminal matters, and she has put in the time and effort necessary to understand and fairly decide issues with little glamour but often of a critical nature, not only to the litigants but to the people of the State.

I know that I echo the sentiments of those who know Judge Scriven when I say she reflects the necessary attributes of a jurist—intelligence, honesty, and evenhandedness.

I congratulate her on this great accomplishment. To her and the members of her family I met when she came up for her hearing—her mother, father, husband, and children—I congratulate the entire family on this tremendous accomplishment. We know the President made a good choice in nominating Judge Scriven to the bench. I am pleased her confirmation has now been accomplished.

I also thank Senator NELSON for the cooperative way our office has worked on nominations. Every day, I am more and more proud of the Judicial Nominating Commission that our good friend Mickey Grindstaff chaired and of all of the fine people, lawyers and non-lawyers, from throughout the State who give of their time to review candidates and to make recommendations in a bipartisan way, trying not only to put somebody on the bench but to make sure we get the very best in the legal profession to then rise to this honored position of a Federal district court judge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I thank all the volunteers who sit on the Judicial Nominating Commission, which is an informal custom we set up in Florida so that we have people process applications, interview the candidates, and make recommenda-

tions to us for the vacancy. Then Senator MARTINEZ and I will sit down with each of the suggestions coming from the Judicial Nominating Commission and explore in detail.

Judge Scriven has been through this process three times. The last time, it was a jump ball for Senator MARTINEZ and myself between two outstanding women candidates. The two of us had the feeling that when the next vacancy came up, we certainly wanted Judge Scriven to have that Federal judgeship. Sure enough, we happily come to the floor today to say congratulations to Judge Scriven. Now she is going to be Federal Judge Scriven. I thank her for offering herself for public service and for the public service she has rendered so unselfishly for so long.

To those who have participated in the process, when we get to the merits, this isn't politics because of the way Senator MARTINEZ and I select these judges. This is not politics. This is the merits because they are looked upon for their accomplishments, background, and judicial temperament. Then we, in collaboration with the White House and advising the White House before we consent, work the process. It has worked very well.

We have two vacancies. I wish we could fill both vacancies, but Senator MARTINEZ and I understood that in the last hurly-burly of trying to wrap up this session, the likelihood was that we were going to get only one. There is another vacancy out there we want to see filled very promptly at the beginning of the new Congress in January. Thus, the two of us will be pushing and pushing to get a nominee confirmed.

Congratulations to Judge Scriven.

Mr. MARTINEZ. If I may add a followup, now that the chairman of the committee is here, I wish to repeat my thanks to Chairman LEAHY for the cooperative way in which we have been able to accomplish these judgeships, not only the ones for Florida but the ones throughout the country that are so very important. We still have a U.S. attorney that we are hoping in the next 24 hours we might be able to get into a package: Mr. Albritton for the Middle District, a longstanding vacancy in the U.S. Attorney's Office that needs to be filled.

The point is to say thank you to the chairman. We appreciate his work. Senator NELSON and I both appreciate Judge Scriven's confirmation. She will serve with great distinction.

Mr. LEAHY. If the Senator will yield for a moment, both Senators from Florida have talked about this, and I will not say anything different than what they have heard me say. They work very well, in a bipartisan fashion, to seek out the best possible people. I have a great deal of respect for both of the Senators. Because they have done that, it has made my job as chairman a lot easier. I look at the distinguished Presiding Officer from Virginia as another example because he was worked so well with the distinguished senior

Senator from that state. Again, it is a situation where there is a Democratic Senator and a Republican Senator. They have worked very closely together to try to bring the best.

I have no problem with different parties in an, obviously, political position choosing partisan positions. In the Federal judiciary, which is supposed to be outside of partisan politics, I wish more Senators and Presidents—the next President, whoever it is—would look at the model of the Senators now on the floor. I include the distinguished Senator from Virginia, the Presiding Officer, in this. Seek the best possible man or woman for these judgeships. Let those of us in legislative office take care of the partisan politics. We can do that. But let the American people, when they walk into a courtroom, say: Whether I am plaintiff or defendant or whether I am rich or poor, no matter who I am, this judge will give me a fair trial. Win or lose, I will walk out knowing I had a fair trial and it was based on the facts, not on politics.

I thank my two friends from Florida. Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I echo how much Senator MARTINEZ and I appreciate the exceptional cooperation the chairman extends to us. We have one more vacancy. I am not talking about the U.S. attorney, I am talking about one more judicial vacancy that, in the new Congress, we want to address immediately and see whether we can fill.

NOMINATION OF ERIC F. MELGREN

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to express my gratitude for the Senate's confirmation of Eric F. Melgren as Federal District Judge for the District of Kansas.

It is important that we deliver solid judges to our court system. With that said, I believe Eric Melgren is qualified for this important responsibility. Since 2002, he has been serving as U.S. attorney for the District of Kansas. Between 2002 and 2003, the District of Kansas had a fourteen percent increase in the number of criminal cases filed in U.S. District and State courts.

Eric's nomination will be of great benefit to the District of Kansas. Due to an increase in caseload, a temporary judgeship was created in the District of Kansas in 1990. Since the temporary judgeship was created, we have seen an increase in the caseload for the District of Kansas.

Currently, Kansas has five active Federal district judges. With Eric's confirmation, we will now have six active judges. However, one of these judgeships is temporary and set to expire on November 21 of this year. If the temporary judgeship would have expired before the Senate confirmed Eric and another judge took senior status this year, the District of Kansas would only have four active judges. Therefore, with the increase in caseload, it was vital that we confirmed Eric before the expiration of this temporary judgeship.

Again, thank you for confirming the nomination of Eric Melgren. He is a

man of integrity and sound judgement. Eric's passion for the law will be of great benefit to the State of Kansas and the rest of the Nation.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise to express my pleasure at the confirmation today of Clark Waddoups to the U.S. district court in Utah and my thanks to all those, in particular the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator LEAHY, who facilitated this result.

Clark Waddoups will be a truly outstanding judge.

He graduated from the University of Utah law school where he was president of the Utah Law Review and has been practicing law in Utah for nearly 35 years, a majority of it in Federal court.

More than that, he has participated in the life of the law in our State, serving on the board of visitors of the law school at Brigham Young University and for 17 years on the Advisory Committee to the Utah Supreme Court on the Rules of Evidence.

Not surprisingly, the Utah chapter of the Federal Bar Association has recognized Clark as Utah's outstanding lawyer and the American Bar Association unanimously gave him its highest well qualified rating to serve as a Federal judge.

Not only is Clark Waddoups an outstanding lawyer, but he is a good man.

He is active in his church and for many years served on and led the board of the Family Support Center of Utah.

Federal courts across America are very busy today, and no more so than in Utah.

Utah has just five U.S. district court seats and our population has increased by more than 50 percent since the last one was created in 1990.

Because this vacancy occurred when Judge Paul Cassell resigned to go back to teaching, there was no senior judge available to help out.

So the service of such an outstanding judge will be welcome indeed.

My colleague and friend from Utah, Senator BENNETT, and I worked together to recommend the very best candidate to replace Judge Cassell.

Clark Waddoups stood out from the many qualified and experienced lawyers we considered.

He is known and respected through the legal community and will be a fair and wise jurist who will live up to the highest standards of the American legal system.

As everyone knows, the confirmation process, especially for judicial nominees, has its share, perhaps more than its share, of tension and controversy.

As a former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I know there are many competing demands and expectations.

But Chairman LEAHY nonetheless scheduled not one but two hearings this month to consider a total of 10 additional nominees to the U.S. district court.

And he made sure that they got on the Judiciary Committee agenda, re-

ported to the floor yesterday, and confirmed today.

So I am deeply grateful to President Bush for nominating Clark Waddoups and to Chairman LEAHY for facilitating his progress through the confirmation process.

Utah and America will be better off with Judge Clark Waddoups on the bench.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as this Congress winds down, we need to focus on confronting the worst financial crisis we have experienced since the Great Depression, one that has exposed the American taxpayers to trillions in losses. But just as I continued to hold hearings on nominations on September 13, 2001, in the wake of the attacks of 9/11, I have continued deep into this Presidential election year to hold hearings and take action on both executive and judicial nominees. Indeed, yesterday the Judiciary Committee reported out 13 nominations, including 10 nominations for lifetime appointments to the Federal bench, and the nomination of Greg Garre to be Solicitor General of the United States, one of the highest and most prestigious positions at the Department of Justice.

I went the extra mile to hold two expedited hearings this month on judicial nominations—despite the Thurmond Rule that Republicans created and followed with Democratic Presidents, despite the practices they followed in 1996 and 2000, and despite the record of Republicans in filibustering and raising objections to important bills with broad bipartisan support.

I held a hearing just 3 days ago as an accommodation to Senator SPECTER, the ranking republican member of our committee and a former chairman. I have accommodated Senator HATCH, another former chairman. I also accommodated the Senator from Kansas and included the nominee from Kansas at a hearing Tuesday afternoon, even though his nomination has raised concerns. We also have proceeded with hearings on another nominee from Virginia, a nominee from California, and the two nominees from Colorado. I continue my practice of working with Senators on both sides of the aisle.

Today I have continued to do so, and the Senate has confirmed all 10 of these Bush judicial nominations: Clark Waddoups of Utah, Michael Anello of California, Mary Stenson Scriven of Florida, Christine Arguello and Phillip A. Brimmer of Colorado, C. Darnell Jones II, Mitchell S. Goldberg, and Joel H. Slomsky of Pennsylvania, Anthony J. Trenga of Virginia, and Eric Melgren of Kansas.

I have said throughout my chairmanship that I would treat President Bush's nominees better than Republicans treated President Clinton's, and I have done so. In the 17 months I served as chairman of this committee during President Bush's first term with a Democratic majority, the Senate confirmed 100 of the President's judicial nominations. In the 38 months I