

create a sustainable aviation industry and increase our Nation's competitiveness in the domestic production of sustainable aviation fuel.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

NOMINATION OF ADAM B. ABELSON

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise in strong support of the nomination of U.S. Magistrate Judge Adam Abelson to be elevated to become a U.S. district judge for the District of Maryland. I joined with Senator VAN HOLLEN to recommend this nominee to President Biden.

Judge Abelson, who lives in Baltimore and now serves as a U.S. magistrate judge in our Baltimore courthouse, has been nominated to fill the current vacancy that occurred due to former Chief Judge James Bedar recently taking senior status.

Senator VAN HOLLEN and I worked to establish a judicial selection committee in Maryland, including an open application process. In particular, we sought out a highly qualified and diverse applicant pool. Our committee interviewed numerous applicants. Senator VAN HOLLEN and I then personally interviewed several finalists before recommending names to the White House.

I want to tell you that this was an extremely competitive process. We had a very, very large number of well-qualified people who sought to serve as judge in our district court. Judge Abelson rose to the top, and we are very proud to make that recommendation.

Judge Abelson has been a U.S. magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland since September of 2023. Prior to his judicial service, Judge Abelson worked in private practice at Zuckerman Spaeder from 2012 to 2023, rising from associate to partner. He served as a law clerk for both Judge Andre Davis on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, as well as Judge Catherine Blake on the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.

Judge Abelson received his J.D., magna cum laude, from the New York University School of Law and his B.A. from Princeton University. Before law school, Judge Abelson served in Santiago, Chile, as a research fellow for the Human Rights Watch.

In private practice, he has represented clients in complex civil litigation, white-collar criminal defense, and government investigations. He maintained an active pro bono practice and was deeply involved in the community and legal profession.

He served as chair of the American Bar Association's Working Group on Building Public Trust in the American Justice System, in which he worked to develop the ABA's "Ten Guidelines on Court Fines and Fees." He coordinated its development of the ABA's "Principles on Law Enforcement Body-Worn Camera Policies." He served on the board of the Job Opportunities Task

Force, including serving as the vice chair, and served as a board member and officer of the Maryland chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

I think you can see that Judge Abelson has been deeply involved in the legal community and in our community in order to be able to properly serve as a magistrate judge.

In September of 2023, Judge Abelson was appointed by the bench to serve as a U.S. magistrate judge for the District of Maryland, where he now sits in Baltimore. As a sitting Federal magistrate judge, Judge Abelson presides over preliminary criminal proceedings, including initial appearances, detention hearings, and arraignments. He handles Federal misdemeanor offenses and reviews applications for search and arrest warrants, pen registers, and trap and trace devices.

On the civil side, he presides over civil proceedings by consent of the parties, conducts settlement conferences in civil lawsuits, and decides discovery disputes and nondispositive motions.

If confirmed as a district judge, he would continue to serve in the same court where he now sits as a magistrate judge and where he has practiced for many years as a private law firm attorney.

I think you can see he is extremely well qualified for this position. He has the experience and he has the background to serve as a U.S. district court judge for Maryland.

I was delighted to recommend the nomination of Judge Abelson to President Biden, along with Senator VAN HOLLEN. Judicial nominees must meet the highest standards of integrity, competence, and temperament. I am confident that Judge Abelson will safeguard the rights of all Marylanders, uphold the Constitution and rule of law, and faithfully follow the judicial oath to "do equal right to the poor and to the rich."

Judge Abelson will serve the people of Maryland well if confirmed for this lifetime appointment. He has strong legal and judicial qualifications and demonstrates a track record of public service.

Let me just say that the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary gave Judge Abelson a rating, unanimously, of "well qualified," which, as you all know, is the highest possible rating. And the Judiciary Committee favorably reported Judge Abelson with a bipartisan vote in July of this year.

I know that public service is a family affair and sacrifice. I particularly want to thank Judge Abelson's family for agreeing to share him with the people of Maryland in the interest of public service.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to confirm his nomination so he can continue to serve the public as a district court judge.

With that, I see my colleague Senator VAN HOLLEN is on the floor. Let me just comment that it has been a

real pleasure for me to work with Senator VAN HOLLEN as we have gone through the process of filling our judicial nominations in Maryland. And he has been an extremely valuable Member in recruiting and making sure we only recommend the very best to the Senate for confirmation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, let me start by thanking my friend and the senior Senator from the great State of Maryland for putting together a process that does ensure that we recommend the very best to our colleagues. I join him in expressing my strong support for the confirmation of Adam Abelson of Maryland to serve as a U.S. district court judge for the District of Maryland. I was honored to recommend his confirmation to the Senate Judiciary Committee, along with Senator CARDIN, and very pleased to see the Senate Judiciary Committee support that nomination.

Judge Abelson's nomination was put forward by President Biden after Chief Judge James Bedar announced his decision to take senior status in May. Chief Judge Bedar served Marylanders on the district court with distinction for over 14 years, and I want to thank him for his excellent public service and unwavering commitment to the rule of law.

Judge Bedar left the Maryland District Court in the very capable hands of now-Chief Judge Russell, and we wish him all the best as he continues his leadership.

For Judge Abelson, this moment is the next step in a remarkable career shaped by dedication to his community, upholding equal justice under the law, and making a positive impact on the world. His experience is both wide and deep.

While in law school, he traveled abroad to promote human rights as a research fellow for Human Rights Watch, where he advocated for victims of the Pinochet regime in Chile and promoted freedom of the press in Argentina and Venezuela. As a fellow at the Department of Justice, he helped to prosecute the perpetrators of genocide in Bosnia and Rwanda.

He then clerked for Judge Andre Davis on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and for Judge Catherine Blake on the District Court for the District of Maryland—two judges known and respected for their stellar and distinguished service.

Following his clerkships, as Senator CARDIN indicated, he was in private practice. He was at the firm of Zuckerman Spaeder, where he rose to the rank of partner and became what some call a legal omnivore, meaning he covered a vast array of territory in the legal realm—working with plaintiffs and defendants in class actions, white-collar criminal cases, investigations—in every step of the trial process. He covered a range of topics, including

antitrust, legal ethics, consumer protection, family law, and even one memorable case regarding horseshoe crabs.

His diversity of experience is a testament to Judge Abelson's work ethic, which has allowed him to master one highly complex area of the law after another. His colleagues say he was gifted with "a special ability to explain complex legal matters in a way that is readily accessible" to everyone. And he fought to ensure that "neither lawyers nor judges lose sight of the humanity of every individual, without regard to their resources."

In addition to his early work fighting for human rights abroad, Adam has devoted himself to the same principles here at home through pro bono work. Again, his colleagues say he "regularly leapt at the chance to take on matters in furtherance of public good."

I do want to mention one important case: his work in *Wit v. United Behavioral Health*, which was a class-action lawsuit in which he took on a massive health insurance company on behalf of 100,000 patients with mental health and substance abuse disorders. These patients were being denied coverage and being forced to shoulder huge out-of-pocket costs for essential care. Adam Abelson helped win them relief, and former Congressman Patrick Kennedy called it the "Brown v. Board of Education for the mental health movement" case.

It is no surprise that, as Senator CARDIN said, the American Bar Association unanimously ruled that Judge Abelson is "well qualified" for the position to which he was nominated.

He has also been a devoted and outstanding member of the legal community, taking on responsibilities with the Maryland chapter of the Federal Bar Association and also having chaired the American Bar Association's Working Group on Building Public Trust in the American Justice System.

He has also been an indispensable citizen in the great city of Baltimore. He served on the board of the Job Opportunities Task Force, which works to eliminate educational and employment barriers for low-wage workers with job training, advocacy, and research. He is an active member of his synagogue, Beth El Congregation.

I want to end just by mentioning some of his family members to whom he would readily say he owes his good fortune in being nominated for this position. His grandmother Lois was a public school guidance counselor who counseled at-risk youth, taught adult education classes, and was involved in other community and civic activities—all into her nineties. In his application, Judge Abelson remembers that his grandmother helped put him on the path to public service. When she delivered meals for senior citizens in public housing, she took Adam and her other grandchildren along.

She died 10 years ago, but it is clear that her tenacious work ethic and her

devotion to justice live on in her grandson.

Like Senator CARDIN, I also want to acknowledge his immediate family members—his wife Laura Ginsberg Abelson, who is a former Federal public defender, an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland Law School, and a fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School. It was Laura who grew up in Baltimore, and we have her to thank many years ago for poaching Adam from Ohio. They decided to raise their family in Baltimore City. Their sons Asher and Max are both currently attending Baltimore City public schools, and both Mom and Dad are very active in their children's educations.

We know our democracy depends on a strong, independent judiciary, and our judiciary depends on people like Judge Abelson—leaders with nimble minds and deep-rooted convictions. He has served with distinction as a magistrate judge, and he will make Maryland and America proud as a district judge. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote to confirm him.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 705, Adam B. Abelson, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Laphonza R. Butler, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Sheldon Whitehouse.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Adam B. Abelson, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Sen-

ator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 231 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Booker	Helmy	Sanders
Brown	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Butler	Hirono	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	Kelly	Smith
Carper	King	Stabenow
Casey	Klobuchar	Tester
Collins	Lujan	Van Hollen
Coons	Manchin	Warner
Cortez Masto	Markey	Warnock
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Welch
Fetterman	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Ossoff	

NAYS—40

Barrasso	Ernst	Moran
Blackburn	Fischer	Mullin
Boozman	Grassley	Paul
Braun	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeven	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Thune
Cornyn	Kennedy	Tillis
Cotton	Lankford	Tuberville
Cramer	Lee	Wicker
Crapo	Lummis	Young
Cruz	Marshall	
Daines	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—10

Murkowski	Rubio	Vance
Padilla	Scott (SC)	Whitehouse
Risch	Sinema	
Rounds	Sullivan	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 40. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING RICHARD STEELE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay one final tribute to Richard Steele, a close friend and devoted public servant to our environment who passed away recently. He left behind a loving family, many friends—and a legacy that will be remembered and appreciated by countless generations in the form of the Hanford Reach National Monument, which exists today in no small part due to his tireless advocacy.

Rich dedicated decades of his life fighting to protect and preserve the