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WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

TO: SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

FROM: JEFF CHANAY, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL, CIVIL LITIGATION DIVISION

DATE: SEPTEMBER 3, 2013

RE: NOMINATION OF CALEB STEGALL TO THE KANSAS COURT OF APPEALS

Chairman King and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony in support of the nomination of Caleb Stegall to the Kansas Court of Appeals.

It has been my pleasure to work with Caleb in my capacity as Deputy Attorney General over the past 32 months. Over that time, I have worked closely with Caleb on numerous issues that involve real or potential litigation for the State of Kansas and its agencies and employees. I have always found Caleb to be highly intelligent and fully engaged in our discussions. His legal analysis has been excellent and always undertaken within the parameters of the law. His legal research has been conducted with fairness and has not been blindly driven to reach a predetermined result. In short, I have found his daily work to be conducted with the very qualities that are prized in a fair and independent judiciary.

Caleb's time as a law clerk for former Tenth Circuit Chief Judge Deanell Tacha and his service as Jefferson County Attorney have uniquely prepared him for his role on the Kansas Court of Appeals. His tenure as Chief Counsel for Governor Brownback has given him a broad perspective on the legal issues facing Kansas and Kansans that is nearly impossible to replicate in any other position.

It should probably go without saying that no one applies to become a trial court or appellate court judge who does not have a deep and abiding respect for the judiciary. Caleb's work ethic, compassion, and sense of fairness will all be a credit to the Kansas court system. His intellectual abilities will be welcomed by the bar and litigants alike.

The process for the nomination and confirmation of the newest member of the Kansas Court of Appeals has received a great deal of scrutiny. It is critical that the Governor's first nominee be beyond reproach. Caleb Stegall has the academic, personal, and ethical values that are essential for a Judge on the Kansas Court of Appeals. I urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to endorse the nomination of Caleb Stegall for confirmation by the Kansas Senate.