

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of the nomination and confirmation of someone for whom I have a great deal of respect, Susan Braden, to be a Judge for the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. I cannot think of a better person for this court. She is currently counsel at Baker & McKenzie. She earned her bachelor degree in 1970 and her law degree in 1973 from Case Western Reserve University. She has worked as a trial attorney in the Department of Justice. She has served as a senior attorney at the Federal Trade Commission. For the past 18 years, she has had a distinguished career in the private sector, specializing in Federal litigation, antitrust, international trade practices, and intellectual property.

Her work on international trade gave her the opportunity to accompany a delegation led by Justices O'Connor, Kennedy, Ginsburg, and Breyer on an official visit to several European courts in 1998.

She is very qualified, and I wish to say on a personal note that she and her husband, Tom Sussman, have been friends of mine for a long time. I went to law school with Tom Sussman. I have a great deal of respect for both Tom and Susan, and I urge my colleagues to support this qualified nominee. She will be a wonderful public servant.

Madam President, I urge approval of the three nominees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I wish to add my comments to the confirmation of Susan Braden. I happen to know her. She represented a business in the steel industry in Alabama that was in trouble. We tried to save it for the State. She worked so hard with the union members and with the company. I came to be extraordinarily impressed with her dedication, her legal skill, her love of law, and her integrity. I think she will do an excellent job in this important position.

I wanted to add my comments that we need more people like Susan Braden in the courts of America. I think she will do a super job. I am very proud of her on this special day.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today in support of the confirmation of Susan Braden, who has been nominated to serve as a judge on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Ms. Braden has the breadth of experience and accomplishment we look for in a Federal judge, and I commend President Bush for nominating her.

After graduating from law school, Ms. Braden served for 7 years as a trial attorney, and then as a senior trial attorney, for the Department of Justice Antitrust Division. She then worked at the Federal Trade Commission for 5 years as a senior attorney advisor and senior counsel to Chairman David Clanton and Chairman James Miller III. In this capacity, she assumed re-

sponsibility for special policy and legislative projects, such as drafting a potential set of guidelines concerning interlocking directorates and issues concerning enforcement of the antitrust laws to professionals.

Ms. Braden has worked in the private sector for the past 18 years, where she has focused on antitrust law, complex civil litigation, international trade matters for industrial clients, and computer software litigation. Her experience will serve her well on the bench. I am confident that she will execute her duties on the bench with integrity, intelligence, and fairness. I ask my colleagues to join me in my unqualified support for her nomination.

NOMINATION OF MARY ELLEN COSTER WILLIAMS

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I am pleased today to speak in support of Mary Ellen Coster Williams, who has been nominated to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Judge Williams has served with distinction on both sides of the bench. Upon her graduation from Duke University Law School in 1977, she worked in private practice with Fulbright & Jaworski and with Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis.

Judge Williams then left private practice in 1983 to work in the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office in Washington, DC. She returned to private practice in 1987 as a partner with Janis, Schuelke & Wechsler.

During her 8 years in private practice and 3½ years as an Assistant United States Attorney, Judge Williams gained valuable experience handling matters involving Government contracts, employment law, torts, and commercial litigation. Since 1989, she has served as an administrative judge on the General Services Administration Board of Contract Appeals.

Judge Williams was named a Life Fellow by the American Bar Association and is currently the vice chair of the ABA Section on Public Contract Law. She also has been active in the District of Columbia Bar Association. Since 1997, she has served on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims Advisory Council, so she has much more than simply a passing familiarity with the court to which she has been nominated.

With her wealth of experience and dedication, Judge Williams is well equipped to serve on the Court of Federal Claims. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her nomination.

NOMINATION OF CHARLES F. LETTOW

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise today to express my full support for the confirmation of Charles F. Lettow, who has been nominated to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

Mr. Lettow is an excellent selection to join the Court of Federal Claims. He has a strong academic background and more than 30 years of litigation experience in constitutional and administrative law matters. A graduate of Stanford Law School, Mr. Lettow clerked for both the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court be-

fore taking a position in 1970 as Counsel to the Council on Environmental Quality, which was established by Congress a year earlier. His responsibilities included drafting legislation and Executive orders and working to negotiate bilateral agreements.

In 1973 Mr. Lettow joined the firm of Cleary Gottlieb as a litigation associate, became a partner three years later, and has remained with the firm since that time, focusing on Federal litigation and environmental cases. Cases he has handled over his career have presented often difficult questions of constitutional and administrative law, and he has handled them with expertise.

Mr. Lettow has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court three times and in the U.S. Courts of Appeals in more than 40 cases, as well as litigated in numerous Federal district courts and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. I cannot imagine someone who is better prepared to sit on the Court of Federal Claims. I urge my colleagues to vote for his confirmation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the nominations are confirmed, en bloc, the motions to reconsider are laid upon the table, the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

Mr. HATCH. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 925, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 925) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal year 2004 and for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2004 through 2007, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1136

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, I send a substitute amendment to S. 925 to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] proposes an amendment numbered 1136.

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.