

**SENATOR CRUZ STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD
AT NOVEMBER 18, 2020 RULES COMMITTEE HEARING**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very proud today to introduce Sean Cooksey as a nominee to the Federal Election Commission.

As the chairman knows, he's from Missouri and currently works for the Junior Senator from Missouri, but I'm going to go ahead and claim him anyway as an honorary Texan. Not only did he clerk for one of the most respected appellate judges in the country, Jerry Smith, in my home town of Houston, but he also worked on my staff as Deputy Chief Counsel, serving the 29 million people of the great state of Texas.

Sean's impeccable educational credentials include graduating summa cum laude from Truman State University, and receiving his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School, where he graduated with High Honors and Order of the Coif.

From there, as I mentioned, he clerked for Judge Smith on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit before joining one of the nation's most respected law firms in D.C. as a litigation associate, focusing on appeals and constitutional law. Most notably, as a young associate he worked on a Supreme Court matter in which his client ultimately prevailed 8-1.

Then, in 2018, Sean joined my staff as Deputy Chief Counsel working on a wide array of important and complex issues, including election law. He did a fantastic job. And we were sad—but also excited for him—when he left in 2019 to serve as Senator Hawley's Chief Counsel when Senator Hawley came and joined us on the Judiciary Committee. He still serves in that role, doing an excellent job for Senator Hawley and he advises Senator Hawley on constitutional law, judicial nominations, election law, federal criminal law, ethics compliance, and a whole lot more.

My experience with Sean has demonstrated to me that he is not only an exceptionally talented lawyer, but he's also someone deeply committed to the rule of law. He will be prepared to hit the ground running on day one as a Commissioner, and I have complete confidence that he will faithfully apply the law fairly and neutrally. I would also note that Sean and his wife Ellyn are expecting a baby this winter and so these are propitious times in the Cooksey household. I'm proud to introduce my friend Sean.

