



**Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing to Consider the Nomination of
James I. Cohn, to be United States District Judge for the Southern
District of Florida**

**Submitted Statement of Senator Bill Nelson of Florida
July 9, 2003**

Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to support the nomination of James I. Cohn to serve as a Federal District Judge in Florida's Southern District.

As you know, Florida's Southern District is one of the nation's busiest jurisdictions. Identifying and approving qualified candidates to fill the court's vacancies is vitally important to my state.

After interviewing Mr. Cohn, hearing from those who know him best and studying his legal experience, I am confident that he possesses the knowledge, temperament and professional experience necessary to succeed as a federal judge.

Mr. Cohn is a graduate of Samford University, Cumberland School of Law and the University of Alabama. He served his country as a member of the Alabama Army National Guard, the U.S. Army Reserves, and the Florida Army National Guard.

Following law school, Mr. Cohn excelled as a lawyer in both public and private practice in Fort Lauderdale. He practiced law for 20 years before becoming a respected Circuit Judge in Florida's 17th Judicial Circuit. During his eight year tenure on the state bench, he has developed a reputation in the legal community as a thoughtful and dedicated jurist who is committed to guaranteeing justice for those who appear before his court.

Based on his significant experience as a lawyer and judge, his demonstrated commitment to public service as a member of the armed forces, and his strong personal character, I believe Mr. Cohn will serve honorably on Florida's Southern District bench.

I appreciate this opportunity to endorse Mr. Cohn and I'm looking forward to working with the Judiciary Committee to secure his confirmation.