

Senate Commerce Committee Nominee Questionnaire, 116th Congress

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation asks you to provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is requested that the nominee type the question in full before each response. Do not leave any questions blank. Type “None” or “Not Applicable” if a question does not apply to the nominee. Return printed answers to Committee. Begin each section (i.e., “A”, “B”, etc.) on a new sheet of paper.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used):

John Chase Johnson (“Chase”)

2. Position to which nominated:

Inspector General, Federal Communications Commission

3. Date of Nomination:

January 28, 2020

4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

[REDACTED]

Covington & Burling LLP, 850 10th St NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

5. Date and Place of Birth:

May 7, 1982; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

N/A

7. List all college and graduate degrees. Provide year and school attended.

Duke University, B.A., 2005

University of Virginia School of Law, J.D., 2009

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

Employer	Position	Location	Dates
YMCA – Camp Belknap	Senior Division Head	Wolfeboro, NH	05/2005–08/2005
St. Paul’s School	Colet Fellow (teacher)	London, UK	08/2005–05/2006
United States Marine Corps (Officer Candidate School)	Candidate	Quantico, VA	06/2006–08/2006
Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green PA	Summer Associate	Concord, NH	05/2007–08/2007
Goodwin Proctor LLP	Summer Associate	Boston, MA	05/2008–08/2008
United States Marine Corps (Marine Corps Recruiting Command)	First Lieutenant	Quantico, VA	08/2009–12/2009
United States Marine Corps (The Basic School)	First Lieutenant, Student	Quantico, VA	12/2009–07/2010
United States Marine Corps (Naval Justice School)	First Lieutenant, Student	Newport, RI	07/2010–10/2010
United States Marine Corps (1 st Marine Logistics Group)	Captain, Prosecutor	Camp Pendleton, CA and Helmand, Afghanistan	10/2010–05/2013
United States Court of Federal Claims (Judge Wolski)	Law Clerk	Washington, D.C.	08/2013–08/2014
United States Marine Corps Reserve (Judge Advocate Division)	Captain, Judge Advocate	Arlington, VA	10/2013–01/2014
United States Marine Corps Reserve (4 th Civil Affairs Group)	Captain, Team Leader	Hialeah, FL	01/2014–09/2015

United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit (Judge Clement)	Law Clerk	New Orleans, LA	09/2014–08/2015
United States Marine Corps Reserve (2 nd Civil Affairs Group)	Major, Plans Officer	Washington, D.C.	09/2015–04/2017
Covington & Burling LLP	Attorney	Washington, D.C.	09/2015–Present
United States Marine Corps Reserve (Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary)	Major, Military Judge	Arlington, VA	05/2017–Present

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

Please see Attachment A.

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above, within the last ten years.

N/A (to the extent any of my work is responsive the question, it is listed above in the answer to A.8.)

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution within the last ten years.

N/A (to the extent any of my work is responsive the question, it is listed above in the answer to A.8.)

12. Please list each membership you have had during the past ten years or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, you do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution.). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

Secretary, Federal Bar Association, Veterans and Military Law Section, 2019 to present; treasurer, 2016 to 2019

Board Member, Duke University Young Alumni Board, 2018 to present

Class Representative, University of Virginia School of Law, 2009 to present

Member, New Hampshire Bar Association, 2009 to present

Member, Massachusetts Bar Association, 2010 to present

Member, District of Columbia Bar Association, 2017 to present

Member, Army Navy Club, Washington D.C., 2010 to present

Member, American Bar Association, 2010 to present

Board Member, Federalist Society, Young Lawyer's D.C. Chapter Board, 2016 to 2018

None of the organizations above, to the best of my knowledge, restrict membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or handicap.

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

No.

14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.

N/A

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$500 or more for the past ten years.

N/A

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

University of Virginia School of Law, merit scholarship: 2006 to 2009

University of Virginia, Raven Society, member: 2009

Marine Corps (order of precedence)

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal: April 29, 2013
and April 9, 2017

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal: October 15, 2012

Navy Unit Commendation: November 3, 2010

Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal: October 1, 2016

National Defense Service Medal: September 1, 2009

Afghanistan Campaign Medal: July 23, 2012

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal: September 15, 2009

Sea Service Deployment Ribbon: September 21, 2012

NATO Medal-ISAF Afghanistan: August 5, 2012

Marine Corps University, Command and Staff, Distinguished Graduate:
2018 to present

Colet Fellow, St. Paul's School, London: 2005–2006

17. Please list each book, article, column, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. Also list any speeches that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Do not attach copies of these publications unless otherwise instructed.

I have sought to identify all of my articles and publications, not including legal filings, by reviewing my electronic and hard copy files and email. There may be materials I did not find or recall. The following are the articles and publications I have identified:

Key Takeaways from Recent Decisions Discussing Release of Claims Provisions, Inside Government Contracts, March 28, 2017.

When does a contract release release a claim? A classic contract tongue twister, Inside Government Contracts, December 21, 2016.

The Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and the Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause, Inside Government Contracts, October 19, 2016.

The Supreme Court Clarifies "Yearsley Immunity": An Analysis of Campbell-Ewald v. Gomez, Inside Government Contracts, January 25, 2016.

I have given no speeches on topics relevant to the position of Inspector General of the Federal Communications Commission.

18. List digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the name of an "alias" or "handle" you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

LinkedIn: active, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/johnchasejohnson/>

Facebook: deleted (approximately 2010)

Instagram: dormant (<https://www.instagram.com/jchasejohnson/>)

Twitter: dormant (<https://twitter.com/JChaseJohnson>)

19. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

N/A

20. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

I wish to continue my government service by serving as the Inspector General of the Federal Communications Commission because I believe that trust is the cornerstone of democracy. Trust in government requires, among other things, that citizens understand that their government works hard to be efficient and to avoid waste. The Inspector General Act of 1978 directs inspectors general to conduct audits and investigations to promote efficiency and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse. It would be an honor to uphold this mission, and, as a result, to strengthen the cornerstone of our democracy.

I believe my breadth of experiences will enable me to complete the mission of the Inspector General of the Federal Communications Commission. My years as a Marine Officer and a private practice attorney at a large firm have honed my leadership skills. I have developed and refined my legal aptitude by serving as a prosecutor, defense attorney, military judge, civil litigator, and lead investigator. In my execution of these jobs, I demonstrated the ability to identify problems, study them, design solutions, and implement those solutions through collaboration and hard work. If confirmed, I would enthusiastically use the skills acquired in my prior positions to increase the efficiency of, and eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse within, the Federal Communications Commission.

21. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting

controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

One responsibility of the Inspector General of the Federal Communications Commission is to ensure that the Office of the Inspector General and the entire Federal Communications Commission have proper management and accounting controls. Because the Inspector General advises, but is not a policy actor, accomplishing this goal requires careful analysis and diligence, followed by collaboration with the other bureaus and offices of the Commission.

I have lead teams of Marines as both a judge advocate and civil affairs officer. I have lead teams of attorneys, investigators, and contractors in investigations, civil litigation, and trials. I also served in various other leadership and management roles in private practice as well as charitable and nonprofit organizations.

22. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

The Federal Communications Commission plays a central role regulating communications that increasingly impact the economy and individuals. If confirmed to serve as the Inspector General of the Federal Communications Commission, I would conduct a thorough and impartial review of the Commission in order to evaluate potential fraud, waste, and abuse. To do this, I would, among other things, meet with the Commission's commissioners, the staff of the Office of the Inspector General, other key stakeholders, and Congress.

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts.

I am an employee of Covington & Burling LLP, and receive a salary. If confirmed, I will no longer have any financial ties to Covington & Burling LLP, or any private employer. I have a 401k plan through Covington & Burling LLP but will no longer contribute to that account upon departing the firm.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain.

Yes. I am committed to remaining in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. To the extent that question B.1., above, applies to my service in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, I receive and intend to continue to receive compensation for my service. As part of my service in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, I have a Thrift Savings Plan account to which I contribute and receive contributions and to which I intend to continue to contribute and receive contributions.

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

During my pre-nomination process, I consulted with ethics counsel for the Federal Communications Commission on several occasions to identify possible conflicts of interest. Any identified possible conflicts of interest will be handled consistent with the ethics agreement into which I entered with the Federal Communications Commission.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

During my pre-nomination process, I consulted with ethics counsel for the Federal Communications Commission on several occasions to identify possible conflicts of interest. Any identified possible conflicts of interest will be handled consistent with the ethics agreement into which I entered with the Federal Communications Commission.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

N/A

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

N/A

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group?

No.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

As disclosed in my background investigation, in 2000, I paid a fine for attempting to possess alcohol as a minor, in Tuftonboro, New Hampshire. I sincerely regret this incident.

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain.

No.

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

As disclosed in my background investigation, in 2000, I paid a fine for attempting to possess alcohol as a minor, in Tuftonboro, New Hampshire. I sincerely regret this incident.

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

No.

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

I do not believe, to the best of my knowledge and recollection, that there is any unfavorable information that has not been disclosed. The favorable information supporting my nomination has also been disclosed, either here or during my pre-nomination process.

I wish only to add that I am grateful for the Committee's consideration and attention and am humbled by the opportunity to be considered for this important position.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority?

Yes.

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistle blowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures?

Yes.

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee?

Yes.

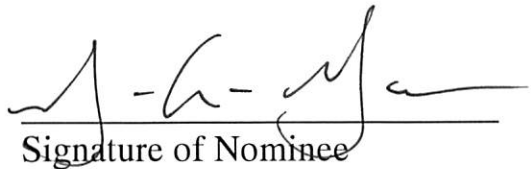
4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so?

Yes.

(Nominee is to include this signed affidavit along with answers to the above questions.)

F. Affidavit

John Chase Johnson being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.


Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 31 day of January, 2020.


Notary Public



John Chase Johnson

EXPERIENCE

Covington & Burling LLP, Washington, D.C.

Senior Litigation Associate, 2015–present

- Trial lawyer and litigator
- Defend national and international companies, as well as individuals, in complex federal and state litigation
- First- or second-chaired three jury trials and one bench trial between 2017 and 2019
- Led multiple negotiations on behalf of clients with the Department of Justice
- Designed and implemented long-term litigation strategies
- Managed teams of 2–8 attorneys and several paralegals on multiple cases
- Authored dozens of federal and state court briefs as well as memoranda for clients
- Representative matters include:
 - Represented KBR in “battlefield torts” concerning burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan
 - Represent F. Hoffman-La Roche in an Anti-Terrorism Act and FCPA case involving Iraq and Hezbollah
 - Represented Bayer and AECOM in False Claims Act cases against the United States
 - Represent McKesson in state and federal opioid cases
 - Represented two different indigent defendants charged with first-degree murder
- Serve in leadership roles on the firm’s Veteran Affinity Group and Summer Associate Group

United States Marine Corps Reserve, Washington, D.C.

Major, September 2016–present; Captain, May 2013–September 2016

- Serve as a military judge in the Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary, presiding over courts-martial for active duty and reserve Marines and sailors
- Selected as a Distinguished Graduate of the Marine Corps Command & Staff College
- Served as a civil-military operations team leader, Second and Fourth Civil Affairs Groups
- Served as Commander of Troops for Presidential Inauguration parade
- Recipient of the Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Award for exemplary service

United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, New Orleans, LA

Law Clerk for the Honorable Edith Clement, 2014–2015

- Helped research and draft opinions and legal memoranda
- Matters concerned constitutional law, federal statutes, and agency regulations

United States Court of Federal Claims, Washington, D.C.

Law Clerk for the Honorable Victor Wolski, 2013–2014

- Helped research and draft opinions and legal memoranda
- Matters concerned government contracts, the Takings Clause, and federal taxes

United States Marine Corps (Active Duty), Camp Pendleton, CA and Helmand Province, Afghanistan

Captain, 2010–2013

- Served as the senior prosecutor, First Marine Logistics Group and First Marine Expeditionary Force (FWD)
- Tried fourteen jury trials—including attempted murder with an insanity defense—and secured thirteen guilty verdicts
- Deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan as a prosecutor and investigator
- Recipient of the Naval Commendation Award for exemplary service

January 2020

First Lieutenant, 2008–2010

- Naval Justice School, Graduated with Honors (Most Outstanding Legal Assistance Attorney)
- The Basic School, B Co., Commanding General's Honor Roll (top 10 of 300 officers)

St. Paul's School, London, United Kingdom

Colet Fellow, History and Italian Departments, 2005–2006

- Taught American and European history and Italian
- Advised students applying to American universities

EDUCATION

University of Virginia School of Law, Charlottesville, VA

J.D., 2009

- Raven Honors Society (University's oldest academic honor society)
- William Minor Lile Appellate Moot Court Competition, best oral argument, and semi-finalist
- Bracewell & Giuliani, best oral argument, Legal Research & Writing
- Libel Show, producer

Duke University, Durham, NC

B.A. with Honors, History, 2005

- Dean's List with Distinction
- Duke Student Government, Vice President
- Duke University Board of Trustees, undergraduate representative
- Speak of the Devil (male *a cappella* group), President
- Studied Italian at NYU Florence, 2003

BAR ADMISSIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Admitted to the bars of the District of Columbia, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire
- Federal Bar Association: Veterans' Law Section, Executive Board Member and Secretary
- Duke University: Young Alumni Development Council and Duke D.C. Board
- YMCA Camp Belknap: alumni captain and volunteer

INTERESTS AND SKILLS

- Distance running (personal marathon record, 3:09)
- Student of history and economics
- Italian, proficient
- Motorcycle touring