



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Supreme Court
Licht Judicial Complex

250 Benefit Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
211 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

February 5, 2024

RE: The Hon. Melissa Raye DuBose

Dear Chariman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We, the members of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, write to express our strong, enthusiastic, and unequivocal support for our colleague, the Hon. Melissa Raye DuBose, who has been nominated to serve on the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island and who is awaiting confirmation from the United States Senate.

Judge DuBose possesses the qualities that are critically important to becoming an outstanding member of the federal bench: experience, education, integrity, judicial temperament, and commitment to public service.

Judge DuBose's work history over the past thirty-five years—as an outstanding public school teacher; state prosecutor; in-house corporate and regulatory counsel at Schneider Electric, a Fortune Global 500 company; and state trial court judge—provides her with deep, broad professional experience that is not typical for a federal district court nominee. She has demonstrated excellence in the courtroom both as a prosecutor and as a judge who manages heavy criminal and civil calendars daily. Many in our legal community speak loudly and enthusiastically about her intellect, judgment and analytical skills, including not only the attorneys who appear before her in the Rhode Island District Court, but also her colleagues throughout the Rhode Island Judiciary and those on the federal bench.

As her colleagues, we have witnessed her courtesy, patience and commitment to equal justice. Moreover, her service on the Board of Directors of both the Rhode Island Foundation, our state's largest community foundation, and the Roger Williams University School of Law speaks to her integrity and impeccable reputation in the larger Rhode Island community. Her commitment to public service is evident. We are confident that, if confirmed, she will once again commit and dedicate herself to her oath to “administer justice without respect to persons, and do equal right to the poor and to the rich, and ... faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon [her] under the Constitution and laws of the United States.”

Letter regarding the Hon. Melissa Raye DuBose
February 5, 2024
Page 2

We respectfully recommend that the Judiciary Committee, and then the United States Senate, act favorably on the nomination of Judge DuBose. It is our firm belief that her confirmation to the district court will reflect credit on the Senate and the State of Rhode Island and that her intellectual curiosity, work ethic, and introspective nature will undeniably serve her well as she continues her distinguished career in furthering the interest of justice.

In closing, we thank you and your colleagues for any consideration shown to this outstanding nominee.

With best regards,

Paul A. Suttell, Chief Justice
Maureen McKenna Goldberg
William P. Robinson III
Erin Lynch Prata
Melissa A. Long