

May 20, 2022

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

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write in strong support of the nomination of Lara E. Montecalvo to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and urge prompt consideration and confirmation of her nomination.

We are current and retired law enforcement officials from towns and cities in Rhode Island. Together we have many decades of experience in law enforcement. Many of us serve in leadership capacities in our departments; our experiences as police officers demonstrate the breadth of the law enforcement experience in Rhode Island. We have worked in Rhode Island's rural communities, suburban towns, and large urban city-centers. As law enforcement officers we have spent our careers keeping our communities safe, preventing crime, and fairly and effectively enforcing the law.

Some of us worked with Ms. Montecalvo in the trenches of state court on misdemeanor and felony cases when she was a public defender trial attorney; others of us have worked with Ms. Montecalvo and her Public Defender colleagues during her time as Director of the Rhode Island Public Defender's Office; and still others of us know Lara and her family personally.

Lara Montecalvo is known to us, and colleagues throughout Rhode Island's criminal justice community, as someone who respects the rule of law and the important role law enforcement plays in promoting public safety. For those of us who worked with Ms. Montecalvo during her time in the trial courts, we witnessed her zealously and diligently defend her clients as the constitution requires but we also recall her respect for the criminal process and her appreciation of the challenges faced by law enforcement officers in carrying out their duties. For those of us who have interacted with Ms. Montecalvo during her time as Public Defender, and who intersect with the Office of the Public Defender on administrative matters, Ms. Montecalvo and her office have been eager to find common ground between the office and the law enforcement community.

We expect Ms. Montecalvo will bring the same fair-mindedness to the federal courts that she has brought to her role as a public defender.

Lara Montecalvo enjoys a well-deserved and hard-earned reputation as an ethical and dedicated public servant deeply committed to the fair and effective administration of the American criminal justice system to which we've dedicated our careers. For this reason, and those described above, we strongly recommend your favorable consideration of Lara Montecalvo to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colonel Hugh Clements, Chief, City of Providence Police Department

Chief Thomas F. Oates III, City of Woonsocket Police Department

Chief Brian Sullivan, Town of Lincoln Police Department

Colonel Michael Winqvist, Chief of Police, Cranston Police Department

Sean Corrigan, Chief of Police, Narragansett Police Department and President, Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association

Steven G. O'Donnell, retired Superintendent of the Rhode Island State Police, Commissioner of the Rhode Island Department of Public Safety & retired United State Marshal for the District of Rhode Island

Sid Wordell, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association and retired Chief of the Town of Little Compton Police Department

Edward E. Dolan, Deputy Chief of the Town of Smithfield Police Department

Lieutenant Michael S. Naylor, City of Newport Police Department

Lieutenant Michelle Kershaw, retired, Rhode Island State Police

Lieutenant Arthur J. Kershaw, retired, Rhode Island State Police

Detective Sergeant Robert Silveria, retired, City of Newport Police Department