



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Supreme Court  
Licht Judicial Complex

250 Benefit Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

The Honorable Dick Durbin, Chair  
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee  
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

May 17, 2022

RE: Lara Montecalvo

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We, the current and retired members of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, write to express our strong, enthusiastic, and unequivocal support for Lara Montecalvo, who has been nominated to serve on the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and who is awaiting confirmation from the United States Senate.

In our opinion, Ms. Montecalvo possesses all the experience, education, temperament, sense of duty, and integrity that is necessary to become an outstanding member of that distinguished court.

We are certain that the Judiciary Committee is already aware of Ms. Montecalvo's strong academic background, extensive experience in the law, and wide range of community involvement.

The members of this Court have had a close and unique opportunity to observe Ms. Montecalvo professionally and to engage with her on a very frequent basis. Prior to her appointment as Public Defender for the State, Lara spent ten years as an appellate attorney and then Chief of the Appellate Division of the Rhode Island Office of Public Defender. Indeed, Ms. Montecalvo has argued before this court on scores, if not hundreds, of occasions. Her written submissions and oral arguments have always been clear, concise, on point, vigorous, and well researched. Further, she has consistently represented her clients ethically and with honor.

It is without hesitation that we express our utmost respect for Lara Montecalvo, both professionally and personally. From our vantage point on the bench, we have had multiple opportunities to observe the respect and civility with which Ms. Montecalvo treats opposing counsel and the court. It is further obvious that the prosecutors against whom she argues have enormous respect and admiration for her.

Having been nominated for a seat on an appellate court, there is no question that Ms. Montecalvo's undeniably comprehensive experience in appellate advocacy will be of great assistance to her as she takes on the role of appellate judge.

Therefore, we respectfully recommend that the Judiciary Committee, and then the United States Senate, act favorably on the nomination of Lara E. Montecalvo. It is our firm belief that her elevation to the circuit court will reflect credit on the Senate and the State of Rhode Island and that she will have a distinguished career in furthering the interest of justice.

In closing, may we thank you and the other members of the committee 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  
Francis X. Flaherty (Ret.)  
Gilbert V. Indeglia (Ret.)