

April 10, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. 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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We write to express our strong support for the nomination of Judge Rebecca Pennell to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington.

We are privileged to serve as deputy prosecutors in Washington State. Many of us have held leadership positions in our Prosecutor's Office, and our experience covers both civil and criminal law cases. We are committed to following the law, fairly and impartially applying it, and ensuring justice prevails.

Three of the signatories to this letter are regular appellate practitioners in their County Prosecutor's Office. One of the signatories to this letter, Ms. Verhoef, has regularly practiced before Judge Pennell since Judge Pennell was appointed to Division Three of the Washington State Court of Appeals in 2016. Mr. Pearce and Ms. Lundgren have regularly appeared before Judge Pennell over the last three to five years. Some signatories to this letter, Ms. Richards, Mr. Pearce, and Ms. Lundgren, have not only appeared before Judge Pennell as deputy prosecutors but have also worked with her as former law clerks to other judges of Division Three of the Court of Appeals. From our regular interactions with Judge Pennell, as either litigants or law clerks, we know Judge Pennell possesses great integrity, is committed to the rule of law, and does not allow her personal beliefs to obscure her judicial reasoning. She is fair and courteous to all who appear before her, and she interprets the law as written, not as she would wish it to be. Above all, Judge Pennell possesses the intellectual capacity necessary to serve as a United States District Court Judge. Judge Pennell has an impressive understanding of the law and its intricacies.

Judge Pennell's record demonstrates her commitment to the rule of law as it is written. Judge Pennell has evinced an ability to set personal opinions and pressures aside. Her judicial opinions demonstrate her clear, common-sense thought process, as well as her respect for the legislature's role in our system of government, and her understanding of her role as a member of the judiciary.

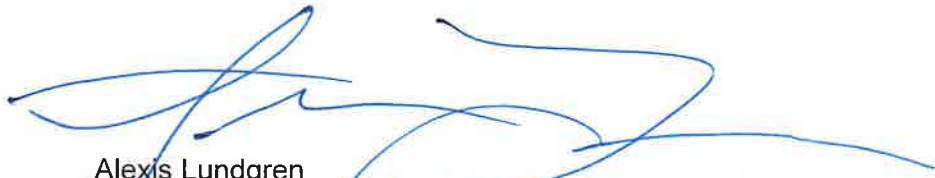
Judge Pennell excels in analyzing complicated issues of law. It is evident from her opinions that she seeks to educate practitioners on the law and prevent future errors. She is also ever aware of barriers to justice, and, where appropriate, facilitates litigants' access to justice. Judge Pennell possesses great analytical aptitude for difficult questions of law and has the ability to decide such issues with particularity.

In sum, as experienced deputy prosecutors, we strongly recommend your favorable consideration of Judge Rebecca Pennell's nomination to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington. She is a highly qualified and competent judge, who will serve our country and our federal courts with great distinction and honor.

Respectfully submitted,



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Appellate Unit Supervisor



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