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October 23, 2023

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chair  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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

**RE: Nomination of Seth Robert Aframe to the First Circuit Court of Appeals**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I am writing as a representative of a group of New Hampshire criminal defense lawyers who represent the bulk of the federal criminal defendants in this jurisdiction. Please note we write in our individual capacities and not on behalf of any law firm or organization with which we may be affiliated. We offer the highest possible recommendation for Seth Aframe to become a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

I have been a criminal defense lawyer for almost 20 years, and prior to that I was a state and federal prosecutor. I have previously served as president of the New Hampshire Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. The group of signatories to this letter have many decades of combined experience representing hundreds of criminal defendants in the federal court here in New Hampshire. We have all come to know Seth in one form or another, many of us coming to know him quite well. Quite simply, he will be an excellent appellate judge.

As defense attorneys in federal court, we have all had difficult cases and clients that make our jobs sometimes especially challenging. They sometimes face years and decades in prison. Due to his abilities, Seth is often assigned the most challenging – factually and/or legally – cases that the United States Attorney's Office handles here. In each case in which Seth has represented the United States, he has demonstrated to his surpassing intellect, professionalism, and integrity. He is a difficult adversary when he needs to be, but he is

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never unfair. He takes the idea of prosecutor's role to seek justice very seriously, and he embodies that throughout his prosecutorial practice. Through handling difficult cases, and this being a very small federal bar, many of us have come to know Seth personally. I consider him a friend at this point, and I have been glad for him (and the USAO) to see him rise in the ranks in that office over the years. He is an exemplary member of the federal bar.

Seth demonstrates the highest professional competence in his practice. In addition to handling many, if not all, of the truly intricate legal matters that make their way through the criminal division of his office, he also oversaw the Court's drug court program for many years. His writing ability is unparalleled, as are his analytical abilities. Due to his abilities, Seth handles most, if not all, of the appellate matters that come through his office, as well. He always understands the core issues quickly, frames them succinctly, and addresses them in such an analytical manner that it makes it quite easy for the court to understand the central legal issues. His knowledge of federal criminal law, both substantive and procedural seems to be limitless.

As well, Seth has demonstrated the highest and most unwavering integrity during the time that we have known him. He has always – whether it be in an individual case, representing the government in drug court, or advocating for certain policy positions in the office, demonstrated that his sole focus was justice and fairness in a system that is often dictated by factors and players outside the courtroom.

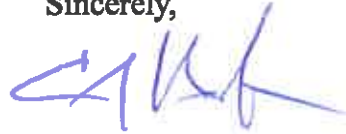
Finally, we believe Seth has a perfect judicial temperament. He shows compassion to victims, witnesses, those he prosecutes, and those with whom he interacts in any other respect in a case. He is and has always been open-minded, but he is quite decisive. In what is often a difficult role as a prosecutor, he epitomizes open-mindedness, courtesy, patience, freedom from bias, and commitment to equal justice under the law.

Seth is what any good lawyer would want in an appellate judge. He is smart, he works hard, he has a large mind, and seeks to do the right thing under the law. I hope that he is approved without reservation. It would serve all who appear before him.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am happy to discuss this matter further with you at any time.

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Sincerely,



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