

June 18, 2024

BY EMAIL

Chairman Richard Joseph Durbin
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
c/o Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

Ranking Member Lindsey Graham
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
211 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
c/o Ryan_Giles@judiciary-rep.senate.gov

Re: Confirmation of Julia M. Lipez to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

It is my pleasure to submit a letter in whole-hearted support of the confirmation of Julia M. Lipez to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. I recently retired from my position at the Department of Justice as the National Domestic Violence Coordinator for the United States Attorney community. In my role, I worked with designated Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Points of Contact in each U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) to assist in the implementation of the federal domestic violence laws. I had the opportunity to work closely with Ms. Lipez, who in addition to her other office responsibilities, served as her Office's VAWA Point of Contact. She used her immense legal skills at both the trial and appellate level to help her USAO investigate, secure and affirm convictions of persons convicted of violating the federal

domestic violence laws. This was particularly important in the District of Maine, where domestic violence is responsible for approximately half of the homicides each year and is a pervasive crime problem. In focusing on available federal domestic violence laws, Ms. Lipez was always cognizant of the impact of domestic violence on victims and their families. She was sensitive to these concerns and approached victims with empathy and compassion. She also was instrumental in forging appellate decisions that helped USAOs around the country prosecute domestic violence offenders and hold them accountable for their crimes.

I physically served as the National Domestic Violence Coordinator from the USAO – District of Maine. It is there that I first met Ms. Lipez when she was as a summer law student in during the summer of 2004. It was clear not only that she was an outstanding, hard-working law student but also that she had a judicious temperament that would serve her well in her legal career. After Ms. Lipez started as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in 2011, we worked closely on many cases and I saw first-hand her development from an outstanding law student to an outstanding prosecutor. It is based on my close professional relationship with Ms. Lipez that I submit a letter in support of her confirmation with the highest confidence.

In addition to her dedication to prosecution of federal domestic violence crimes, Ms. Lipez was also a leader in the USAO efforts to combat human trafficking, especially when it involved minor victims. She worked closely with the victims, the Office's Victim Witness Coordinator, law enforcement agents, and advocates - all of whom were dedicated to helping trafficking victims and doing their best to ensure that the emotional and physical needs of the victims are met. This is particularly challenging when dealing with teenage victims. Ms. Lipez approached each case with concern for the victim's well-being and hopes that prosecution of traffickers will prevent future Maine minors from a similar fate.

In sum, I recommend confirmation of Ms. Lipez to the First Circuit Court of Appeals with the highest praise and with no reservation.

Sincerely,

Margaret S. Groban

Former National Domestic Violence Coordinator for the Executive Office of United States Attorneys at the Department of Justice

cc: Senator Susan M. Collins (c/o Trent_Benishek@collins.senate.gov)
Senator Angus S. King, Jr. (c/o Sanjay_Kane@king.senate.gov)
Phillip A. Brest (Phillip.A.Brest@who.eop.gov)