

October 23, 2023

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chair  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Seth Robert Aframe, Nominee for the U. S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

As former United States Attorneys for the District of New Hampshire, it is our honor to enthusiastically support the confirmation of our former colleague, Assistant United States Attorney Seth Robert Aframe, to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

As prosecutors, we have abiding faith in the rule of law and, as long-time practitioners before courts in the First Circuit, we understand the vital role of the First Circuit Court of Appeals in deciding appeals affecting every aspect of American life. We have unwavering confidence in Mr. Aframe's qualifications to join the distinguished First Circuit bench by reason of his deep appellate and trial experience, and his scholarship, legal acumen and compassion.

Attorney Thomas Colantuono hired Mr. Aframe as an Assistant U. S. Attorney following his tenure as a law clerk to the Honorable Judith A. Cowan, Associate Justice, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, and to the Honorable Jeffrey R. Howard, Circuit Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. At the time, Mr. Aframe impressed Mr. Colantuono as a bright, able and articulate attorney who would meet the Office's highest standards of excellence and be a strong asset to the complement of Assistant United States Attorneys.

During his long tenure in the Office, Mr. Aframe has fulfilled that promise and more: each of us regards Mr. Aframe as a distinguished and persuasive appellate advocate who has successfully represented the government and earned a well-deserved reputation for excellence. His knowledge of the law is extensive. His writing is pristine and persuasive. We doubt that there is any practicing attorney who has briefed and argued more cases before the First Circuit, or who has an equal reputation for outstanding scholarship, candor toward the tribunal and fidelity to the rule of law. Indeed, none of us was ever more proud than we were to see the Office's name, and ours, inscribed on the cover of a brief authored by Mr. Aframe, or a decision rendered by the Court thereafter.

While Mr. Aframe readily grasps and articulates the most sophisticated legal concepts, as United States Attorneys, we also valued his pragmatism, candor and generosity. He has traveled easily in the rarified environment of appellate advocacy, but has also diligently earned the trust of juries and of victims of some of the most heinous crimes imaginable. He has frequently volunteered as trial counsel in complex cases, served his colleagues as a trusted advisor, and taken a leadership role in numerous initiatives, including the LASER program, the District Court's drug court. In recognition of this, and of his considerable talents, he now serves as the Criminal Bureau Chief at the USAO-DNH.

Mr. Aframe is a person of the highest integrity who will consistently demonstrate patience, courtesy, empathy and equanimity as a member of the Court. He will serve the cause of justice and decide all cases before him according to the rule of law, and without fear or favor. To our minds, there is no one better-suited or better qualified to join the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and we urge the Committee on the Judiciary to unanimously confirm his nomination.

Sincerely.

*Thomas P. Colantuono*

Thomas P. Colantuono, Esq.  
USA-DNH 2001-2009

*John P. Kacavas*

John P. Kacavas, Esq.  
USA-DNH 2009-2015

*Emily Gray Rice*

Emily Gray Rice, Esq.  
USA-DNH 2016-2017

*Scott W. Murray*

Scott W. Murray, Esq.  
USA-DNH 2018-2021