

May 29, 2024

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

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

I am a former Nassau County police officer for 37 years, I also served as the President of the Nassau County Police Benevolent Association (PBA) from 1988-2008, representing over 3000 members as well as the Past President of the NYS association of PBA's, representing over 25,000 police officers.

I understand that Judge Sarah Netburn is under consideration for appointment to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, and I am writing to share with you my experience being represented by now-Judge Sarah Netburn. Being a staunch republican I am writing this letter in order for the committee to get a full understanding of her character her commitment to doing the right thing, without bias or any political agenda on my part.

In 2006, the Executive Board of the PBA was retaliated against by our County Executive for exercising our First Amendment rights. We needed a first-rate lawyer to be our advocate. And we found that advocate in Judge Netburn. The PBA and the county executive had been in many political fights, but when he cut our pay because he didn't like what we were saying about his commitment to public safety, we knew we needed the best constitutional lawyer we could find.

Judge Netburn fit the bill, she was tough, smart, and did not let politics affect her role. We never once doubted her commitment to protecting our First amendment rights, then attorney Sarah Netburn got us the full relief we sought in the lawsuit. And at the same time preserving our first amendment rights to be able to speak our minds as we saw fit without retribution.

Based on my experience working closely with Judge Netburn, I know her to be honest, fair-minded, apolitical, and to care deeply about the rights of police officers. I think she would make an excellent district judge.

Thank you,

Gary Dela Raba