

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

Re: The Honorable Rebecca Pennell, nominee for United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

I write in my personal capacity to support Judge Rebecca Pennell's appointment to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington.

I have worked at the Grant County Prosecuting Attorney's Office since January 2019 and started working on appeals later that same year. Eventually, I became the Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the Civil and Appellate Division, the position I hold today.

During the time I have worked on appeals on behalf of Grant County, I have had the honor of practicing before Judge Pennell in her capacity as a Court of Appeals judge for the State of Washington. On the occasions I have had the opportunity to present oral argument before a Court of Appeals panel that included Judge Pennell, my experience has been that Judge Pennell is insightful and thoughtful about her questions and discussion of the issues. I have observed Judge Pennell consistently display proper judicial temperament when engaging with parties, even when she may disagree with a party.

Judge Pennell's written decisions demonstrate her desire to understand the parties' positions and correctly apply the law. I admire and appreciate Judge Pennell's strong legal grounding for her decisions and her ability to analyze the facts through the applicable legal framework. While it is to be expected that I may not agree with all her decisions, I have found her decisions to be consistently well written and well analyzed.

I believe that if Judge Pennell is appointed, she will make an excellent contribution to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington. From my perspective, Judge Pennell being appointed to the federal bench would be a loss for the Washington State Court of Appeals, but a great gain for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Kaylor