

THE HONORABLE THERESA S. DiMAURO (Ret.)

June 16, 2024

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

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

***Re: Attorney Mary Kay Lanthier
Judicial Nominee to the U.S. District for the District of Vermont***

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the nomination of Attorney Mary Kay Lanthier to serve as a judge on the United States District Court for the District of Vermont.

I was a District/Superior Court Judge in Vermont for 24 years, before retiring in 2017. I presided many times during those years in the Rutland District/Criminal Division, where Attorney Lanthier is a public defender. Before going to the Rutland Public Defenders Office, Attorney Lanthier had been a law clerk for several of my colleagues. She also practiced in front of them once she went to the Rutland Public Defenders Office. When they learned that I would be assigned to the Rutland criminal court, each of them told me that I would be very impressed with Attorney Lanthier – not only for her research and writing skills, but for her professionalism and her courtroom skills as well – and they were absolutely right.

Attorney Lanthier was in my courtroom on a regular basis for arraignments, bail arguments, motion hearings, and jury trials. Regardless of the proceeding, she was always prepared, knew the facts and the law, and made her arguments and presented her case thoroughly and professionally. She handled a whole range of criminal cases, from misdemeanors to serious felony charges - from sexual assaults to homicides. Several of those felony cases were very high profile and of significant public interest. She handled them all with integrity and professionalism. She is well-versed in the rules of evidence and the rules of criminal procedure. She has been managing the public defenders office for many years, and has been a good mentor to the newer attorneys who joined the office over the years. She is very capable of running a courtroom and managing a docket.

I am aware that Attorney Lanthier may not have extensive civil experience but, while she was a law clerk, she handled civil as well as criminal and family matters. She is very quick to learn, and despite not having a lot of civil experience, I'm certain she would work extremely hard to be prepared for sitting in that docket.

Attorney Lanthier is respectful and professional in her interactions with prosecutors, witnesses, and judges. She obviously has an understanding of defendants' rights, but is respectful and empathetic in her interactions with victims as well. I have no doubts that she will approach her role as a judge free from bias and will be fair with defense attorneys and prosecutors. No one should doubt her commitment to equal justice under the law. She is well respected and highly regarded by her colleagues and judges. Attorney Lanthier will bring integrity, empathy, skill, and professionalism to the position.

I strongly support and highly recommend Attorney Lanthier's nomination to serve as a judge on the United States District Court for the District of Vermont.

Sincerely,

Theresa S. DiMauro