

July 1, 2024

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

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

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We the undersigned law enforcement officers submit this letter in support of the nomination of Laura Provinzino to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota. Each of us have worked closely with Laura in her capacity as an Assistant U.S. Attorney investigating and prosecuting individuals who violated federal human trafficking laws and other violent crimes.

As case agents and task force officers on many different federal and state prosecutions, we know that not every case is the same. Some involve relatively simple charges, with few witnesses, and only a handful of exhibits. Others, like the cases that Laura worked on with us, are large-scale investigations of criminal organizations that can last many months or even years and require collaboration with law enforcement officers from other cities and states.

We worked closely with Laura on these kinds of cases and know that she was involved in every step of the way: from grand jury proceedings all the way through sentencing and post-conviction matters. She developed a wealth of experience investigating and prosecuting complex matters including human trafficking and money laundering cases.

Laura also stood out among her peers for her dedication to our cases. During one trial that spanned nearly six weeks through the Thanksgiving holiday and approaching Christmas, Laura was steadfast in her pursuit for justice for the trafficked victims. She was kind, considerate, thoughtful, and unwavering in her pursuit for the truth. As law enforcement professionals, we had confidence in Laura and knew that she treated every case as her highest priority. We believe that she will do the same for each of the matters assigned to her as a federal judge.

Finally, we observed Laura interacting with federal judges, defense counsel, defendants, and witnesses. She had a reputation for being honest and straightforward. Laura had an excellent command of the facts for each of her cases. When addressing a judge in court or in chambers seeking approval for an investigative order or search warrant, she was respectful and prepared with a comprehensive understanding of the facts. Laura often used her communication skills to

work through differences and she was so effective that some law enforcement personnel referred to her as “Judge Laura.”

Laura Provinzino is highly respected in the law enforcement community, and we are confident that her breadth of experience as a prosecutor, dedication to equal justice and the rule of law, and excellent temperament make her well suited to serve as a district court judge.

We respectfully urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to swiftly advance her nomination and for the Senate to confirm her to the federal bench.

Respectfully,

Tonya M. Price  
HSI Supervisory Special Agent

John Tschida  
IRS-CI Special Agent

Steven Baker  
Senior Investigator (contractor), US Justice Department Criminal Division, Money Laundering & Asset Recovery Section (MLARS) – Retired

Bob Blackmore  
FBI – Retired

Erik McKloskey  
Lieutenant Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office

John Western  
Postal Inspector United States Postal Inspection Service

Peter Dawson  
Sergeant Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office

Heather Jensen  
Sergeant Bloomington Police Department

Mike Schantzen  
Detective Anoka County Sheriff’s Office

Robert King  
Postal Inspector United States Postal Inspection Service

Matt Hoffman  
Postal Inspector United States Postal Inspection Service

Dale Hanson  
Special Agent Minnesota Commerce Fraud Bureau