

May 7, 2024

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

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

Dear Senators Durbin and Graham:

The undersigned, all former Assistant United States Attorneys for the District of Maine, write in support of Stacey D. Neumann of Scarborough, Maine, a nominee for appointment as a United States District Judge for the District of Maine. During her tenure as a federal prosecutor for our district, and subsequently as a private practitioner, Ms. Neumann has distinguished herself by virtue of a keen legal mind, tireless work ethic, and balanced and measured professional demeanor. For those of us familiar with her skills and collegiality, her appointment to the federal bench is a natural progression of her legal career and we have confidence that her confirmation by the United States Senate would be well received by the members of our federal bar and the public.

Ms. Neumann's academic credentials speak for themselves. Following her graduation from Cornell Law School, *magna cum laude* and *Order of the Coif*, she held two judicial clerkships, first with the Vermont Supreme Court and then with the Honorable Peter W. Hall of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit who had just recently been appointed to that bench by President Bush. Equipped with this fulsome academic exposure to the law, she served as an Assistant Public Defender in Vermont where she nurtured a love of the courtroom and a style of advocacy that emphasized preparedness, focused strategies, and fact-based decision making, attributes that her colleagues would come to greatly admire and now attest to.

During her subsequent years of service as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Maine, Ms. Neumann investigated and tried all manner of federal criminal matters, including fraud, firearms, drug trafficking, immigration, child pornography, and child exploitation cases. In recognition of her particular skills in dealing with the particularly sensitive and difficult genre of child abuse cases, Ms. Neumann was named the Office's *Project Safe Childhood* program coordinator. Herself a mother of four, Stacey Neumann was exceptionally effective in navigating that field of federal law and in the process endeared herself to her law enforcement colleagues, witnesses, victims and their families, the bench, and the bar.

Since leaving federal service and over the decade that followed, Ms. Neumann has become a valued and highly respected member of our private bar. In addition to her criminal law expertise, as a private practitioner she has expanded her expertise to include multiple areas of civil law and, not surprisingly, is in great demand from her colleagues as both a mentor and collaborator. She has been recognized by the United States District Court for her service to the cause of indigent defense by her appointment to its Criminal Law Committee and its Criminal Justice Act Panel Selection Committee. Beyond the courthouse, her contributions to our bar and public service have been impressive: election to the Maine State Bar Association's Board of Governors, a Director of the Maine Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and by gubernatorial appointment, a Commissioner on Maine's Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

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As former federal prosecutors for our District, we naturally take great interest in seeing that the very best of our bar ascend to positions within Maine's federal judiciary. There are many talented lawyers in Maine, but few who are so well equipped to judge as Stacey Neumann. While good judges must first be good lawyers, they must also be individuals motivated by reason, patient enough to work through complex facts and laws, tempered with a sense of fair play, and able to appreciate the ordeals of lawyers and their clients. Through her experience, Stacey Neumann has the perspective of both a public prosecutor and a private practitioner. She will appreciate and honor her role as a United States District Judge and as a steward of our Constitution and the rule of law. We strongly urge and recommend her timely confirmation by the United States Senate as United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

Sincerely and Respectfully Yours,

Thimi R. Mina
Former Assistant United States Attorney
District of Maine

George T. Dilworth
Former Assistant United States Attorney
District of Maine

Margaret Groban
Former Assistant United States Attorney
District of Maine

Donald E. Clark
Former Assistant United States Attorney
District of Maine

James W. Chapman
Former Assistant United States Attorney
District of Maine

Renée M. Bunker
Former Assistant United States Attorney
District of Maine

William J. Schneider
Former Assistant United States Attorney
Former Maine Attorney General, and
Chairman, Maine Commission on
Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

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cc: Hon. Susan M. Collins
United States Senator, Maine

Hon. Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator, Maine