

October 20, 2023

The Hon. Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sarah F. Russell

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write in aid of the Committee's evaluation of the suitability of Sarah F. Russell to serve as a U.S. District Judge for the District of Connecticut, and in enthusiastic support of her nomination to that position. I have known Ms. Russell since she served as one of my law clerks in 2002-03 when I was a U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York. She clerked thereafter for Judge Chester Straub of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

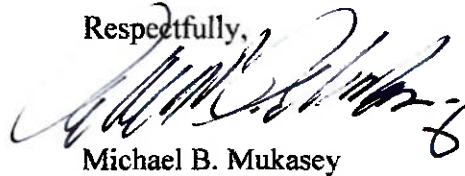
Her work as a law clerk included preparing draft proposed opinions, principally in civil cases, and draft jury instructions in both civil and criminal cases. It included also discussion with me of issues in both civil and criminal cases in a process best described as helping me think. Our interaction included intensive review of her written work and my own, and discussion of legal and factual issues. Sarah thinks and writes clearly. She showed herself also to be a disciplined practitioner who can apply the law regardless of her personal predilections, and do so rigorously and convincingly.

The cases in which she prepared draft opinions ran the gamut of federal practice, from patents and trademarks to diversity tort and contract cases, to bankruptcy appeals to habeas corpus cases brought by state prisoners, to issues of federal civil and criminal procedure and jurisdiction.

I think it is telling that although her experience includes service as a federal defender and not as a prosecutor, many of her enthusiastic endorsers are themselves involved in law enforcement, whether as prosecutors or police. As I believe they can and do attest, her temperament is calm and judicious.

In sum, by talent, training and temperament, I believe Ms. Russell is outstandingly qualified to be a district judge, and I strongly endorse her candidacy. If there is any further information I can provide, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Mukasey", written in a cursive style.

Michael B. Mukasey