

May 23, 2024

BY EMAIL

Chairman Richard Joseph Durbin
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Lindsey Graham
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
211 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Confirmation of Julia M. Lipez to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We are writing to express our full support for the confirmation of Julia M. Lipez as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Together, we are a group of retired federal law enforcement agents who served for decades with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and Diplomatic Security Service (DSS). Among us are retired Special Agent Todd DiFede, who served as the FBI's Supervisory Resident Agent in Charge for Maine, retired Supervisory Special Agent Andrew Shea, who served as the Regional Chief of Criminal Investigations, Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) and retired Special Agent Gary Cote, who served as HSI's Resident Agent in Charge for Maine. Each of us had the pleasure of working with Justice Lipez for several years while she served as a Federal Prosecutor in the District of Maine, and we can attest to her outstanding qualities.

Justice Lipez is a highly intelligent and thoughtful individual who has always approached her work with great care and consideration. She is well-versed in the law and has a deep understanding of the Constitution. As colleagues, we have always been impressed by her fairness and impartiality in her decision-making.

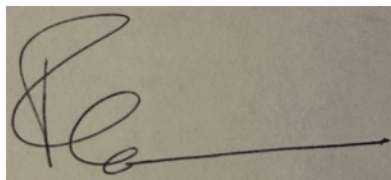
Justice Lipez has vast experience in handling cases involving human trafficking, drug violations and crimes against children, among others. Justice Lipez was a tireless advocate for victims of crime, including women

who suffered abuse and exploitation. Her legal skills, coupled with her humility and calm demeanor, make her an exceptional candidate for the First Circuit Court of Appeals. Her knowledge and expertise will undoubtedly be an asset to the Court.

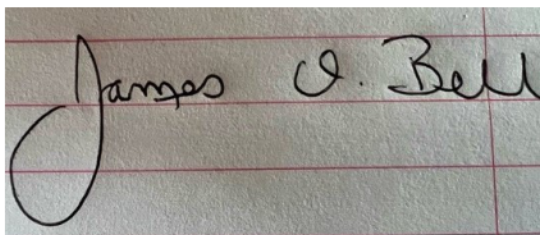
It is our firm belief that Justice Lipez is an excellent candidate for this position, and her appointment would be a great addition to the judiciary. We strongly urge the Senate to confirm her nomination to the First Circuit Court of Appeals without any delay.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

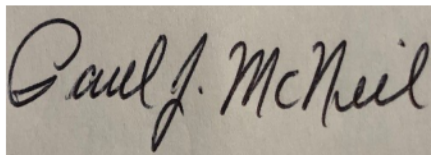
Sincerely,



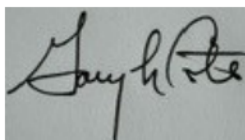
Pamela A. Flick
Retired Special Agent, FBI



James Bell
Retired Special Agent, HSI



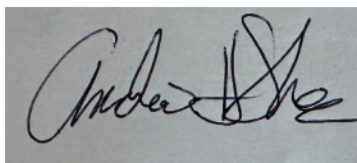
Paul J. McNeil
Retired Special Agent, ATF



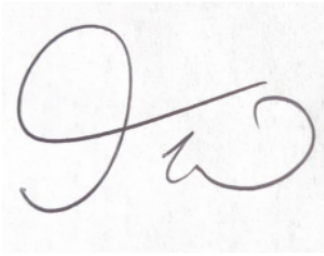
Gary Cote
Retired Special Agent, HSI



Todd V. DiFede
Retired Special Agent, FBI



Andrew Shea
Retired Special Agent, DSS

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is highly stylized and cursive, appearing to be the initials 'JW'.

Thomas P. MacDonald
Retired Special Agent, FBI