



The District Court of the State of Rhode Island

Garrahy Judicial Complex
One Dorrance Plaza
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsay Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

February 5, 2024

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We, the current members of the Rhode Island District Court, write to express our strong and enthusiastic support and endorsement of Associate Judge Melissa DuBose to be the next judge to join the United States District Court bench. We have had ample opportunity to observe her skills and abilities in the areas of law and her competency and temperament in the courtroom and therefore know that she will be an asset to the federal court in her continued dedication to the law and the fair and respectful treatment of all of those who enter her courtroom.

By way of background, the Rhode Island District Court is a court of general jurisdiction, handling both criminal and civil matters. The fourteen judges of our court, and general magistrate, come from varying legal backgrounds: prosecutors, defense attorneys, civil law practitioners, and family law practitioners. The vast majority are former litigators who have practiced in front of an array of state court judges over the years prior to taking the bench. In addition to civil and criminal matters, we handle administrative appeals from certain agencies as well as serving on the civil court certification calendar (also known in other states as an involuntary psychiatric treatment and commitment court).

Also of note, our state court judges are not elected. Instead, we are appointed to the bench after a rigorous evaluation process. Thus, at the time Melissa DuBose joined us as a colleague, we knew she was ready and qualified to take on new challenges and the role of judge.

She is a great asset to our Court. The fact that she is highly respected by the attorneys and people who come before her speaks volumes. In addition to her legal acumen and intelligence, Judge DuBose is dedicated to community reach-out and the mentoring of young people. It is not unusual to see her with students from high school and the one law school in our state, all from diverse backgrounds, walking beside her on such mentoring visits. As a former public-school educator in Rhode Island's largest city, this comes as no surprise. Neither does her articulateness and skills as a writer.

In closing, we thank you and the other members of the committee for any consideration shown to Judge DuBose. We know that she will be an outstanding addition to the federal bench.

Respectfully,

Chief Judge Jeanne E. LaFazia

Administrative Judge Pamela Woodcock Pfeiffer

Associate Judge Mary E. McCaffery

Associate Judge Anthony Capraro

Associate Judge Joseph T. Houlihan

Associate Judge Colleen Hastings

Associate Judge Stephen M. Isherwood

Associate Judge James J. Caruolo

Associate Judge Brian Goldman

Associate Judge William Trezvant

Associate Judge J. Patrick O'Neill

Associate Judge Nicholas Parrillo

Associate Judge Debra Saunders

Magistrate Joseph P. Ippolito, Jr.