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February 1, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we respectfully offer our support and endorsement for the nomination of Judge Melissa Dubose to serve on the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island. As lawyers from Rhode Island's Office of the Public Defender, we have represented clients in cases both against Judge Dubose when she was a state prosecutor and before her as a judge of the Rhode Island District Court.

As her resume reflects, Judge Dubose has a wealth of experience and a strong legal background that will benefit her on the federal bench. As you are aware, Judge Dubose's path to the judiciary has not been a traditional one, but it is one that speaks to both the tenacity of her character as well as her dedication to the community. During her years as a public-school teacher in Providence, Rhode Island, as well as her time spent with the state's Office of Attorney General, she has proven to be a dedicated public servant who has consistently demonstrated fairness to both her students and the litigants who have appeared before her.

During her time as a prosecutor, Judge Dubose exhibited integrity, humility, and grace. She understood her role in seeking justice for victims, but also recognized the importance of the accused's right to a fair trial. Since being appointed to the Rhode Island District Court by Governor Gina Raimondo in 2019, Judge Dubose has proven to be insightful, patient, and creative on the bench. She has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to justice and the rule of law. Known for treating all litigants and participants with respect, she consistently administers justice fairly and impartially.

Administration	Appeals	Felony Division	Misdemeanor/PAC	Licht VOP Unit	Family Court	Investigations
222-1511	222-1510	222-1540	222-1520	222-1312	222-1530	222-3492

In addition, Judge Dubose currently sits on the Rhode Island Supreme Court’s Committee for Racial and Ethnic Fairness, where she has focused on reducing the overwhelming court fines and fees that can be levied against criminal defendants. Working with the Center for Health and Justice Transformation, the committee has eliminated more than one million dollars in outstanding court fees—fees that would have once pushed marginalized people further into poverty, trapping them in a cycle of new fees, new charges, and additional court dates.

We would like to note that Judge Dubose has always exhibited an exceptional temperament and clearly holds the dignity and decorum of the courtroom in high regard. Her patience with the public as well as the court staff is second to none and can be witnessed by anyone who enters her courtroom. Although not every person can leave her courtroom on the winning side, every attorney and litigant will leave knowing that they have been heard and treated fairly. For all these reasons, we would urge this Committee to forward her nomination to the Senate for advice and consent.

We appreciate this opportunity to share our thoughts regarding such an important appointment. We have absolutely no reservations about recommending Judge Dubose for a position on the federal bench; she is a jurist who no doubt makes our judicial system stronger and fairer.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Collin M. Geiselman
Public Defender

Matthew Toro
Deputy Public Defender

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Chief, Criminal Division

Kara Maguire
Chief, Appellate Division

Brian LeClair
Chief, Parental Rights Division

Anne Travers
Chief, Juvenile Division

Camille Capraro
Assistant Public Defender

Kimberly Chiulli
Assistant Public Defender

Daniel Ciora
Assistant Public Defender

Tiffany Davila
Assistant Public Defender

Diana deGroof
Assistant Public Defender

Michael Ewart
Assistant Public Defender

Mitchell Graham
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Emmett Hardiman
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Megan Jackson
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Ann Elise McCaffrey
Assistant Public Defender

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Piper Pehrson
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Sarah Potter
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