

June 13, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Re: Support of Mary Kay Lanthier, nominee for United States District Judge for the District of Vermont

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

We, the undersigned current prosecutors, write to recommend Attorney Mary Kay Lanthier to be the next District Court Judge for the District of Vermont. The undersigned group of prosecutors have an aggregate of approximately 25 years of experience working with opposite Attorney Lanthier. This wealth of experience with Attorney Lanthier gives us confidence that the quality of justice in Vermont will improve due to Attorney Lanthier's appointment, because of her legal acumen, compassion, and wisdom. In the coming paragraphs, we hope to share with each of you the person and legal practitioner that we have had the pleasure—and challenge—of working opposite of over the years.

To provide context for our recommendation and assessments, it is helpful to explain how we know Attorney Lanthier. Attorney Lanthier has served as the supervising Public Defender in Rutland County the entire time we have known each other. This means that during the time we worked opposite each other, we have tried cases, contested legal issues, negotiated cases, and conducted depositions with Attorney Lanthier every week. Beyond the overlap in our core job responsibilities as advocates, Attorney Lanthier has collaborated with us on operational and policy issues to improve procedural justice. Additionally, Attorney Lanthier has worked with several of us to provide training opportunities for new police officers and members of the bar.

Attorney Lanthier's legal acumen would be the cornerstone of her service as a judge. Throughout the years we have worked opposite each other, we have seen Attorney Lanthier brief and argue routine, novel, and obscure legal issues. In each case, her work shows the utmost care for the facts and the law. The breadth and quality of her research illuminates the legal topics involved in the case. The clarity and force of her writing knit together her research in a way that is helpful and compelling to the reader.

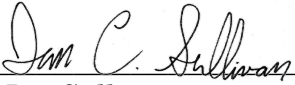
Attorney Lanthier's compassion is a virtue that improves the administration of justice. Perhaps it is not surprising that, as a Public Defender of many years service, Attorney Lanthier has compassion for her clients no matter how they live or what they have done. From what we have experienced, Attorney Lanthier's compassion extends beyond just the people she represents. Victims of crime, bystander witnesses, and the police each experience a skilled and insightful defense attorney. Even though Attorney Lanthier may be advocating that the witness got it wrong, she advocates for that position in a way that is compassionate for the people involved. Justice is about so much more than just getting the ruling right. How the attorneys and judges in the system treat people directly impacts that person's belief that justice was done, even if the

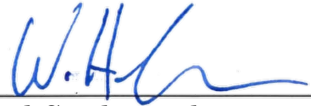
outcome of the case goes against their position. The compassion we have seen Attorney Lanthier display to a wide number of participants in the court system gives us confidence that the judiciary would be well-served by her confirmation.


The wisdom Attorney Lanthier displays in her work recommends her to service on the bench. Just application of the law requires more than the technical application of statutory construction or constitutional interpretation; it requires wisdom. Wisdom gives a judge the insight to imagine the consequences of their decisions on the next case and the case after that. That insight helps wise judges refine their opinions to best serve the ends of justice and create widely applicable rulings. In our operational and policy work together, we have seen Attorney Lanthier's wisdom in advocating for changes large and small that will improve the quality of justice.

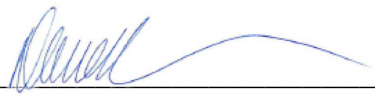
As we close out this letter, we can only hope that we have captured with fidelity Attorney Lanthier as a person and a practitioner. While we routinely disagree and advocate against each other's position in the courtroom, it is through that process that we have come to know Attorney Lanthier to embody the highest principles of the practice of law. We strongly believe she is the right person to serve as the next Federal District Court Judge for the District of Vermont. The quality of justice here in Vermont will undoubtedly be improved by her service as a Federal District Court Judge.

If any of us can be of any further service in this process, please do not hesitate to contact us.

By:  _____
Ian Sullivan
Rutland State's Attorney (2022 – Present)
(Rutland DSA 2015 – 2022)

By:  _____
Ward Goodenough
Windsor State's Attorney (2020 – Present)
(Rutland DSA 2015 – 2016)

By:  _____
Peter Bever
Rutland DSA (2011 – Present)*

By:  _____
Daron Raleigh
Rutland DSA (2018 -Present)*

** Please note: these individuals have signed on to this letter in their personal capacities and not in any official capacity. Their employment is identified to provide context for their recommendation.*