

October 31, 2023

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
c/o U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal
303 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
EMAIL: [David Stoopler@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:David_Stoopler@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)

Re: Letter in Support of the Nomination of **Sarah Russell**
to the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

As a career-long advocate for victims of crime in the state of Connecticut, I write in support of the nomination and confirmation of Sarah Russell to fill a judicial vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut.

I came to know Professor Russell while a student extern at Quinnipiac University School of Law's Legal Clinic. What stood out to me as a former victim advocate was Professor's Russell's commitment to advancing social justice and equity through the law. Through our work at the clinic representing low-income individuals in a variety of legal matters, it was clear that Professor Russell was committed to ensuring a voice to those who were often forgotten in the legal system.

After law school, as a victim rights attorney, I had the pleasure of working with Professor Russell as a member of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission. While her role was advocating for criminal justice reform on behalf of inmates and convicted persons, I was asked to review potential reform strategies through a victim advocate lens. While these might seem like opposing interests, at the end of the day, they are in fact quite similar as reform requires fairness, equity, access, and representation. Professor Russell understands this deeply and made sure to listen to every voice at the table so that these ideals were upheld in the policies she supported.

I also had the fortune of working with Professor Russell as Chair of the Criminal Justice Policy Committee for Governor-elect Ned Lamont. As Chair, she promoted professionalism, respect, and collaboration, and under her leadership, the Committee provided strong recommendations for policy initiatives to the new Governor and Lt. Governor. This was yet another great example of Professor Russell's ability to balance differing interests and agendas and uplift voices from underrepresented communities.

Professor Russell has dedicated her career to furthering her depth and breadth of knowledge of the law in order to help others. She has instilled these ideals in countless students and lawyers who have had the great opportunity to learn from her and because of that, the legal community in Connecticut is better. She is an excellent lawyer, teacher, and advocate and it is my honor to support her nomination and confirmation to the U.S. District Court.

Sincerely,

Maura Crossin

Maura Crossin, Esq.