



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

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*Peter F. Kilmartin, Attorney General*

July 22, 2014

Hon. Sheldon Whitehouse  
170 Westminister Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: Nomination of Gerald Pappert to the United States District Court for the  
Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

I recently learned that the nomination of Gerald J. Pappert to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania has been forwarded to the United States Senate for confirmation. I have never before commented upon a federal judicial nomination, but because of my relationship with Jerry Pappert, depart from that practice.

In May, 1999, four months into my tenure as Deputy Attorney General, I attended my first "Chief Deputies Conference" in San Antonio, Texas. I retrospect, that point of my career was truly a blur; every day was filled with new experiences and new challenges. I barely knew what the "National Association of Attorneys General" was, and did not appreciate the value of the relationships that could be developed through that organization.

The Chief Deputy Attorney General of Pennsylvania, Jerry Pappert, ran that conference. I was in awe of the management experience and insights that he had to offer, and perhaps more importantly, of how willing he was to share them with a new Deputy such as myself.

I came to know Jerry well after that conference. I valued his judgment and insight on a myriad of issues, and in particular on those which impacted both of our states. When Attorney General Mike Fisher was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Jerry was promoted to become Pennsylvania's Attorney General, filling out the remaining three years of his term. Like most of my colleagues, I was enormously proud of Jerry in his new role. Jerry continued to serve as a valuable resource to me and other Chief Deputies around the country, and provided unique insights into the topic of the relationship between the Attorney General and Chief Deputy.

Although my relationship with Jerry began as a professional one, I have come to consider him a friend. I know of few persons as passionate about the Boston Red Sox as Jerry, and have had the pleasure of attending several games with him. I have also watched helplessly as Jerry and wife suffered through the terminal illness of their son George, who was stricken with a malignant brain tumor. Watching the grace and the dignity of Jerry during this most difficult of circumstances only further enhanced my great respect for him.

Hon. Sheldon Whitehouse

July 22, 2014

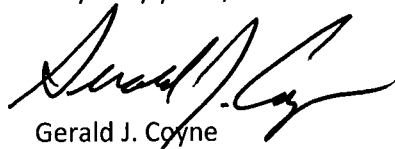
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Having watched him interact with numerous people over years, including Attorneys General, NAAG support staff, private counsel, and others, I can state with conviction that I have met few, if any, others with the judicial temperament that Jerry has consistently demonstrated. He listens; he cares what people say, and ensures that they understand how important their point of view is to him. He is respectful of the law, and works hard to ensure that he considers the legal basis of his decisions. Perhaps most importantly, he has shown, time and again, the willingness and the ability to make a difficult decision.

Jerry Pappert will be an outstanding United States District Court Judge. I am extraordinarily proud to call him a friend, and to endorse his confirmation in the strongest possible terms.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald J. Coyne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "C".

Gerald J. Coyne  
Deputy Attorney General