

April 7, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. 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

RE: Judge Rebecca Pennell, Nominee for the United States District Court  
for the Eastern District of Washington

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

I am submitting this letter of support for Judge Rebecca Pennell of the Washington State Court of Appeals for appointment to the United States District Court. I am currently a part-time Municipal Court Commissioner for the City of Yakima and part-time Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. This letter is not provided in my official capacity as a court commissioner, but as a litigant who has appeared before Judge Pennell in the Court of Appeals.

I have been a criminal prosecutor for the State of Washington for over 25 years. I have appeared before Judge Pennell since she first took the bench with the Court of Appeals. I can say that each time I argued before her she was prepared and knowledgeable of the facts of the case. She always had thoughtful questions that demonstrated that she was prepared. She also listened carefully to both sides and understood the issues being argued. In addition, she treated the attorneys that appeared before her with respect.

Furthermore, I have been reading her published and unpublished opinions since she took the bench. Her legal writing and analytical skills are exceptional.

In conclusion, Judge Pennell has consistently demonstrated the qualities one would seek in a fair, unbiased judge. She has demonstrated the intellect and judicial temperament necessary for an appointment to the United States District Court. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information or if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

*Tamara Q. Hanlon*