

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

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April 1, 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. 2051

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Rebecca Pennell

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Rebecca Pennell's nomination for the position of United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Washington. I have known Rebecca for seven years now, since I became the CEO for YWCA Yakima. I have sought her input as a former YWCA Yakima Board Member many times on various organizational issues and projects. She has provided me with information on different YWCA situations and activities and provided feedback and guidance over the years. Rebecca served on the board during the time our organization was renovating a building to be the first permanent home for our domestic violence emergency shelter and transitional housing programs.

Rebecca's extensive legal experience, particularly her tenure as a Judge on the Washington State Court of Appeals Division Three, showcases her ability to navigate complex legal issues with integrity and fairness. As Chief Judge from 2020 to 2022, she demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, ensuring the efficient and equitable administration of justice within her jurisdiction.

Prior to her judicial service, Rebecca made significant contributions as an attorney with the Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington and Idaho. Her role in pioneering re-entry drug court teams in Yakima and Richland underscores her proactive approach to addressing societal challenges and her commitment to advocating for marginalized communities.

Rebecca's educational background, including her J.D. from Stanford Law School with distinction, reflects her dedication to academic excellence. Furthermore, her involvement in various court and bar-related activities, such as serving on the Washington State Board for Judicial Administration and the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, demonstrates her deep engagement with the legal community and her proactive efforts to enhance judicial processes.

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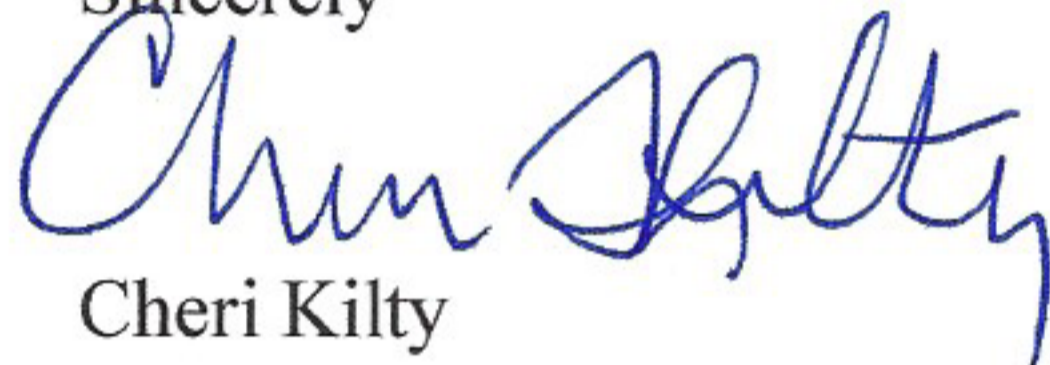
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Beyond her professional endeavors, Rebecca's active involvement in community activities speaks to her strong sense of civic duty and compassion. From her participation in addressing missing and murdered Indigenous persons to her leadership roles in organizations like the Yakima YWCA, Yakima Rotary Club and the Girl Scouts, Rebecca has consistently demonstrated her commitment to serving others and fostering positive change.

Thank you in advance for your support and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at ckilty@ywcayakima.org or 509-248-7796 if you have any questions.

Sincerely



Cheri Kilty
YWCA Chief Executive Officer