

September 15, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write to express our strong support for the nomination of Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Maria Araujo Kahn to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

We have been privileged to serve as federal prosecutors in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut. Many of us had the pleasure to work alongside Justice Kahn during her tenure as an Assistant United States Attorney while others have interacted with her as adversaries, or more recently, as litigants in her courtroom. All of us, without reservation, can attest to her exemplary character, her outstanding legal skills and her keen sense of fairness and justice – the very skills that, if confirmed, will make her an outstanding addition to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Justice Kahn has distinguished herself in a multitude of important legal roles throughout her career. As a prosecutor she enjoyed a well-earned reputation of being an extremely hard worker – often returning to the office late in the evening to prepare for trial or finish writing a brief after putting her children to bed. Her strong work ethic, excellent legal skills and judgment are complemented by a refreshing humility. She has never forgotten the opportunities this country has provided her as a first-generation American. These admirable characteristics made her a very fair and effective prosecutor, highly respected by her colleagues, adversaries and judges.

After many years as a federal prosecutor, Justice Kahn was appointed to the Connecticut Superior Court by Governor M. Jodi Rell. Notwithstanding the fact that she had spent most of her legal career to that point in time in the federal system, she quickly adapted to the state system where, as a trial judge, she presided over a wide variety of civil and criminal matters. Not surprisingly, she excelled in the role and was elevated to the Connecticut Appellate Court and, shortly later, to the Connecticut Supreme Court by Governor Dannel Malloy where she has

continued her distinguished service as a jurist. Similar to when she was a prosecutor, Justice Kahn brings an even-handed, accessible approach to the bench. Her intellect, sense of fairness and compassion remains evident in all her work. She applies the law fairly and without regard to personal preference.

In sum, we recommend, in the strongest terms possible, your favorable consideration of Justice Kahn's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She will bring a breadth and diversity of experience to an already distinguished court. Her sterling career as a prosecutor, a judge and now a justice of Connecticut's highest court, gives us full confidence she will be an equally outstanding circuit judge.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Apter
Liam Brennan
Shawn Chen
James T. Cowdery
Willie Dow
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Richard N. Palmer
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