

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsay O. Graham  
Incoming Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Judiciary  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Honorable Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley and Incoming Ranking Member Graham;

I am honored to offer my strongest recommendation for Attorney Michael A. Delaney of New Hampshire to serve as a United States Court of Appeals Judge for the First Circuit Court. As a crime victim advocate for over 35 years, including serving 26 years as Director of the N.H. Attorney General's Office of Victim/Witness Assistance (OVWA), I worked to develop the OVWA 24-hour on-call direct services and support program in all of the state's homicide cases, from death notification through the criminal justice process. I had the privilege of representing eight Attorneys General on enhancing crime victim rights and ensuring that victims of domestic and sexual violence, child abuse, human trafficking and other violent crimes were treated with dignity and respect throughout the system.

I have known and worked closely with Michael Delaney since he came to work as a homicide prosecutor at the Attorney General's Office in 1999. I saw first-hand his commitment to seeking justice and his compassion for those who had been victimized by violence. I responded along with him to numerous homicide scenes, and watched as he listened to family members who had just been notified of the violent death of their loved one. I saw him offer words of comfort as he witnessed their intense pain and validated their feelings of grief and anger. Each homicide and each family member was unique and he had the ability to gain their trust through his empathy and dedication to each and every one of their cases.

I accompanied him and Governor John Lynch as they met with the family and officers of a beloved Police Chief who was killed in the line of duty during a drug raid. I saw him successfully prosecute a

case involving two teenage boys who killed a Dartmouth University professor and his wife just to see what it was like to kill someone. Attorney Delaney was a very effective homicide prosecutor and his commitment and dedication, along with his exemplary courtroom skills, resulted in justice for many families. As Deputy Attorney General and Attorney General, I worked with him to enhance the state's systemic response to violent crime and to create a trauma-informed multidisciplinary statewide initiative, through the development of legislation, standardized protocols, policies and professional training. He was a leader in the state's recognition of the need to address human trafficking, and he led the effort to create a statewide network of Child Advocacy Centers to strengthen the state's services and support for children victimized by child sexual abuse. Attorney General Delaney's support was critical to the creation of the state's first network of Sexual Assault Response Teams, designed to ensure a confidential, victim-centered approach to adult victims of sexual assault. He was recognized for his work by receiving awards from the N.H Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence and the N.H. Granite State Children's Alliance.

With his diverse legal and professional background, his high ethical standards and deep sense of commitment to fairness and impartiality, Michael Delaney will make an exceptional judge. He believes in the importance of building community confidence in the criminal and juvenile justice systems and in promoting the transparency that is the foundation of such confidence. I urge you to recommend Michael Delany as a Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals. I am grateful for your consideration of this letter of support.

Sincerely,



Sandra Matheson  
Crime Victim Advocate and Consultant  
Bluffton, South Carolina  
smathesonc@yahoo.com