

August 31, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am the former United States Attorney for Vermont. I served in that role from November 2017 through February 2021 and was proud to have bipartisan support for my nomination and a unanimous Senate confirmation. I have served in the Vermont legal community for the last 11.5 years, first as a federal prosecutor, then as U.S. Attorney, and now in private practice.

I write to applaud the nomination of Vermont Supreme Court Justice Beth Robinson to fill the Vermont vacancy on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. While I do not recall ever meeting Justice Robinson and while I have never appeared before her, as a longtime member of the Vermont legal community and as a born and raised Vermonter, I know her by reputation.

I can report that Justice Robinson has an impeccable reputation. To my memory, everyone I have ever talked to, no matter their political persuasion, shares the view that she has a tremendous legal mind, sharp and solid legal reasoning, and an excellent judicial temperament. Whether or not one agrees with the outcome of a particular decision (or decisions), there is no question that her educational background and legal experience make her eminently qualified for the Second Circuit position. It is evident from her resume that she has an extraordinary work ethic. I have also heard that Justice Robinson is a good person; people on both sides of the political aisle describe her as kind and likeable. I have been told, "you really should meet her."

As a native Vermonter and member of the Vermont bar, I am also aware that she has spearheaded landmark litigation that has quite literally changed the country. She successfully litigated *Baker v. Vermont*, which led the Vermont legislature to be the first in the nation to enact civil unions. As we know, this decision had a precedential domino effect that culminated in the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to legalize gay marriage. The right to gay marriage is an issue that now garners wide bipartisan support.

Moreover, as I understand, if confirmed, Justice Robinson will be the first openly gay federal circuit judge in the history of the country. As Vermont's first female, and first openly gay, U.S.

Attorney, I view the diversity that Justice Robinson would bring to the bench as a tremendous asset. This is true, not only because diversity of perspective and background adds value to the judiciary, but because her confirmation will send a message to all young people that, no matter who they are, they can be anything they want to be in life.

Justice Robinson is rightly viewed by all as a trailblazer in the tradition of the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. I hope you will confirm her.

Respectfully,

*/s/ Christina E. Nolan*

Christina E. Nolan