



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GATES WISE SCHLOSSER & GOEBEL

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November 9, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Nomination of Colleen Lawless

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

It is my pleasure and privilege to offer my unalloyed endorsement of Colleen Lawless as a nominee for US District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

I have known Colleen since she graduated from law school. She joined the Springfield law firm of Londrigan, Potter and Randle which, in my opinion, was one of the premier downstate Illinois firms. This office had a very fast-paced and high pressure practice that produced superb results for its clients in complex legal matters. It is to Colleen's enduring credit that she immediately excelled in that environment.

While in civil practice, Colleen had the unique ability to aggressively represent her client and achieve excellent results while at the same time promoting civility and professionalism. When she ascended to the Illinois State Court bench, she took those gifts with her. She has been very successful in resolving the matters before her in a learned and prompt fashion while remembering her duty to treat all parties with respect and compassion.

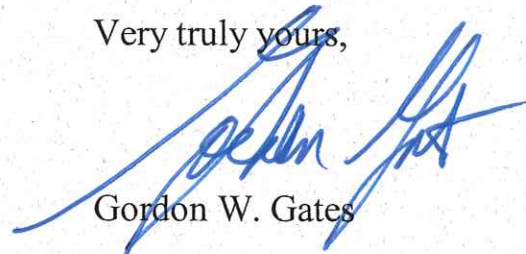
Colleen's work ethic and intellect are unquestioned, but I find that her greatest attribute is her exceptionally high "emotional I.Q." She is able to address contentious situations and heated and impassioned clients and attorneys with equanimity. Her sense of humor and presence of mind invariably defuses difficult interactions and lead to resolutions that satisfies all players.

I also have been impressed with her abilities as a manager of staff and as an administrator. She is respected by her co-workers as well as her subordinates and she is able to get the best from both.

While Colleen may not possess Ivy League credentials, I have been continuously impressed with her grasp of difficult legal issues and complicated facts. She has both a quick mind and the ability to dive deeply into an issue- her river runs both fast and deep.

I will be very pleased to have Colleen join the bench in the district in which I practice law. I have confidence that she will administer the office skillfully, conduct court room proceedings intelligently and professionally and apply the law justly and promptly. I could not ask for a better example of a federal judge.

Very truly yours,



Gordon W. Gates

GWG/ap