



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
CIRCUIT COURT  
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

MATTHEW J. MAURER  
ASSOCIATE JUDGE

FIFTH FLOOR  
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November 9, 2022

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

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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing to support the nomination and confirmation of Judge Colleen Lawless to serve as District Court Judge for the Central District of Illinois. I have known Judge Lawless for eight (8) years. She appeared before me regularly in family court for four (4) years. After her appointment as an associate judge assigned to family court in 2019, we have worked closely together on almost a daily basis. I have had the pleasure to observe her personally and professionally over the years, and I support her nomination and confirmation without any reservations.

I graduated from Sangamon State University in May of 1984 with a degree in business management. In May of 1987, I graduated from the University of Illinois Law School in Champaign Urbana. I joined the Sangamon County States Attorney's Office in August of 1987 as an assistant state's attorney. I was assigned to paternity and child support cases initially; and thereafter, was assigned to the traffic and misdemeanor division. In August of 1989, I entered private practice with the Fuiten & Miller law office. Thereafter, I worked as a sole practitioner. I was appointed as an assistant Sangamon County Public Defender in traffic and misdemeanor in 1989. Subsequently, I was assigned to felony cases. I remained in private practice and as an assistant felony public defender for approximately 21 years until 2010 when I was appointed as the First Assistant State's Attorney of Sangamon County. As a felony public defender, I represented individuals charged with felonies ranging from first-degree murder, residential burglary, aggravated battery and aggravated criminal sexual assault to forgery. As a public

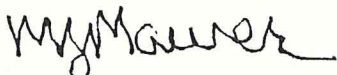
defender, I represented in excess of one thousand (1,000) individuals. I also represented numerous individuals charged with first-degree murder and tried approximately twelve (12) jury trials involving first-degree murder. The majority of my practice was representing individuals charged with felonies. In 2010, I was appointed First Assistant State's Attorney of Sangamon County. I remained first assistant for three years until September 9, 2013 when I was appointed to serve as an Associate Judge in the 7<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. Our office prosecuted criminal defendants in Sangamon County as well as representing the County in civil matters. As first assistant, I was involved in prosecuting serious felony cases, including an individual charged with murdering an infant, an individual charged with stabbing to death a nurse as well as an individual charged with killing his mother. I have been involved in approximately one hundred (100) criminal jury trials. In 2013, I was appointed as an Associate Judge in the Seventh Judicial Circuit. I currently preside as chief for the family division.

Prior to Judge Lawless' appointment as an associate judge, she appeared before me in family court. She was always well prepared and extremely knowledgeable of the facts and the law. She was well-versed in the rules of procedure and evidence. She always treats others with dignity and respect. After Judge Lawless was appointed an associate judge in 2019, I have had the pleasure of working with her on almost a daily basis. She is an extremely hard worker and dedicated to the profession of law. She has extremely good judgment and is dedicated to fairness. Her decisions are based on the facts of the case, applicable law and credibility of the witnesses with thoughtful and well-reasoned analysis. She effectively balances a busy schedule, ensuring that litigants receive their day in court. Judge Lawless is always willing to assist others and volunteers to cover other courtrooms when there is a need. We frequently consult one another on legal issues. She has been a tremendous help to me personally in discussing complex legal issues and their application. She is humble, kind, intelligent and fair. I have had considerable experience in criminal law prior to being appointed as a judge. I have been both a prosecutor and defense attorney. The majority of my practice, prior to my appointment as a judge, was in criminal law. I have complete confidence in Judge Lawless and her ability to manage any courtroom and caseload.

I have become close friends with Judge Lawless and have had the pleasure of meeting her family. Judge Lawless is extremely dedicated to her family, community and profession. She volunteers her time to help make the community a better place.

I have complete confidence in Judge Lawless and strongly recommend her to serve as District Court Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew J. Maurer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matthew J. Maurer