

Michael D. Thompson
6669 32nd Place, NW
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August 17, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing in support of Amy Solomon's nomination to be the next Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs in the US Department of Justice.

I have known, and worked closely with, Amy for nearly 25 years. As the founder and head of the Justice Center at the Council of State Governments, a membership association serving all state leaders in the three branches of government, I partnered with Amy when she was employed by the Office of Justice Programs under multiple administrations and when she worked for the Urban Institute. In addition, while I was a senior vice president with the Pew Charitable Trusts and she was a top official at Arnold Ventures, our organizations collaborated closely on important initiatives.

I made it a priority to work with Amy whenever possible because of her deep expertise on criminal justice policy. Whether on the subject of programs that reduce recidivism, effective approaches to community supervision, or efforts to improve court-based decisions about pretrial release, Amy stays on top of the latest research, eagerly solicits new analyses to understand trends in the field and generate new insights, and insists findings be packaged and communicated in ways that make this information accessible and actionable for the field.

Amy has always been highly regarded among leaders in law enforcement, courts, corrections, and victim services because of her deep understanding of the role that local and state governments have in setting and implementing criminal justice policy. From a variety of perches in the federal government and philanthropy, Amy designed, implemented, and oversaw grant programs on topics ranging from prison reentry to violence reduction. In so doing, she demonstrated a keen appreciation that no two states are alike and the role of the federal government is to foster state and local innovation, not to impose one-size-fits-all mandates.

When my new job at Pew made it necessary for my wife and children and me to relocate from New Jersey to Washington, DC five years ago, I also saw first-hand that Amy and her husband, Dr. Michael Solomon, were active in the public elementary, middle, and high schools that our children shared. And, much in the same way people across the US in government and advocacy genuinely enjoyed being around Amy and her contagious devotion to public service, so did her neighbors appreciate her commitment to family and the community.

In sum, I cannot think of anyone better qualified or better suited for the position to which Amy Solomon has been nominated. I welcome any opportunity to discuss further my endorsement of her nomination (mike@mikethompsonconsulting.net / 917.930.8753).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Thompson'. The signature is stylized and includes a large arrow pointing upwards and to the right, which is part of the signature itself.

Michael D. Thompson