

14915 38th Dr. SE Unit R-1143
Bothell, WA. 98012
October 1, 2021

Chair Dick Durbin
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Chuck Grassley
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

I am writing in my personal capacity to strongly endorse Mary K. Dimke for the position of United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Washington. I am currently retired, having practiced law for 38 years. The majority of my career I was privileged to serve as a public defender in Yakima County, Washington Superior Court and then as a Federal Public Defender in the Eastern District of Washington.

For several years I defended criminal cases in the federal court in which the government was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Dimke. Although we never had a case proceed to trial, we had several cases result in disposition. I found Ms Dimke to be a tough prosecutor, and although I was not always happy with some of the positions she took, in an obviously adversarial criminal system, I feel her positions were fair to her client, the system and to my client. She was always well versed in the facts of her case, good facts and bad facts, and the law as it applied to the case. But most importantly, in my opinion, even though she had a position to take and an opinion as to the direction the case should follow, she was always open to listen to my position and consider my presentation. She didn't always agree with me, a majority of the time she did not, but the willingness to listen is a trait not found in all prosecutors. The good ones, yes.

After Ms Dimke was appointed as a Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District of Washington, based in Yakima and Richland, Washington, I appeared before her frequently. Initially I was not ecstatic that she was appointed as I felt, from a defense perspective, there was enough former prosecutors on the bench. Diversity maintains the credibility of the bench. After a short time of appearing before Magistrate Dimke for initial appearances, probable cause hearings, bail hearings, and other preliminary matters, I realized my initial misgivings were not valid. Magistrate Dimke proved to be a fair, impartial jurist, who was not only able to, but willing to listen, extract the pertinent facts applicable to the hearing and make a decision that was supported and appropriate. Her judicial demeanor made all in the court room feel as though they were respected as participants in the process and as individuals.

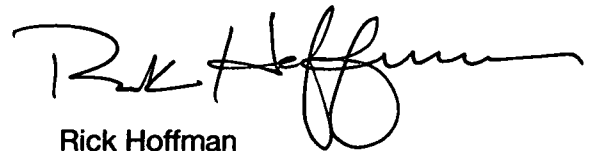
I also served as the defense member of what in our district is called the STEP court or "drug court." This body has prosecution and defense members and treatment providers on it. We had the ability to divert certain filed cases into a alternative resolution model. These

defendants primarily suffered a significant drug or alcohol addiction that in some way contributed to the non-violent charge they were facing. Treatment and counseling for these individuals can change their lives. Magistrate Dimke was the leader of this group. I witnessed her grow into this position in a tremendous way. While always aware that individuals must be held accountable, she approached her leadership and the direction of this group with a humanity that recognized the human nature of the difficulties that many of our participants had suffered in their lives. She exhibited empathy and a humanity that is an extremely desirable quality for all participants in the legal arena to see from the bench.

Ms Dimke exhibits the utmost integrity and professionalism in her work and is respected by those who have appeared before her. She will make an exceptional federal district court judge.

I strongly recommend and urge the Committee on the Judiciary to approve the nomination of Mary K. Dimke to serve as a judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Hoffman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "R" and "H".

Rick Hoffman

H

Rick Hoffman
14915 38th Dr SE Unit R1143
Bothell, WA 98012

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Thinking

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CHAIR DIK DIRKSEN
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
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