

**Record Statement of Former Senator Patrick Leahy  
On Molly Silfen's Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing  
For Her Nomination to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims  
March 22, 2023**

I am thrilled the Senate Judiciary Committee is holding this hearing to consider the nomination of Molly Silfen, former Counsel-Detailee on my Judiciary Committee staff, to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. One of the most important and impactful functions this committee plays is to closely examine nominees put forward by the President. As a longtime member of this committee who has voted for many qualified Republican and Democratic nominees, I am absolutely confident that President Biden could not have made a better choice in nominating Molly Silfen to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

In addition to being one of our country's brightest legal minds on intellectual property and other issues that come before the Court of Federal Claims, Molly possesses the character and temperament all Americans expect to see on our federal bench. There is a reason Molly received enthusiastic support from both Senator Thom Tillis, my Republican partner on the Senate's Intellectual Property Subcommittee, and me for this nomination. I have no doubt she will excel as a judge on the Court of Federal Claims and treat all parties who appear before her with respect and fairness.

When I took over as Chairman of the Senate's IP Subcommittee this past Congress, I wanted the counsel of someone who had mastered the intricacies of our IP system and could think creatively about ways we could improve it for all Americans. That is exactly why I hired Molly Silfen as my Counsel-Detailee from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to guide my final tenure as the Senate's IP Subcommittee Chairman. For two years, Molly expertly worked across the aisle and with countless stakeholders to help me craft innovative legislative solutions to update and strengthen our IP system. I am particularly proud of her efforts to help successfully enact my *Unleashing American Innovators Act of 2022*, a bipartisan bill to improve access to our IP system for women and other underrepresented communities.

All in all, Molly possesses the intellect, experience, and integrity to excel as a judge on the Court of Federal Claims. I am confident that she will bring a deep reverence for the rule of law and a sense of humility to her role as a federal judge. I hope my Republican and Democratic friends on this Committee and in the Senate will also see the merits of Molly's nomination and swiftly vote to confirm her.

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