

## Introduction of Justice Maria Araujo Kahn at the Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Chris Murphy

Thank you Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley for the opportunity to submit this statement of support into the record.

Today, I am honored to introduce Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Maria Araujo Kahn to the Committee. Justice Kahn has had a long and distinguished career as a member of the Connecticut legal community, and I am confident that she has the skills, experience, and temperament to serve as a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Justice Kahn's judicial experience alone is impressive: She has served on the bench in Connecticut since 2006, first as a Superior Court judge, then as an Appellate Court judge, and finally as a Supreme Court Justice for the last five years.

Even prior to her time on the bench, Justice Kahn devoted herself to a career in public service. After law school, she clerked for Judge Peter Dorsey on the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. After that, she went on to work for the Office of the Chief Public Defender for Connecticut for two years before spending four years in civil rights litigation while working in the Connecticut Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities. Finally, she served nearly a decade as a federal prosecutor in Connecticut.

Throughout her career, Justice Kahn has received a number of awards that speak to her standing in the community. Among them, Justice Kahn earned several Department of Justice Special Achievement Awards along with awards from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the United States Postal Service. And she was also the 2013 Connecticut Immigration and Refugee Coalition 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Immigrant Day Honoree.

Justice Kahn has received letters of support from organizations and individuals who represent Connecticut's disability community, from several former federal prosecutors in Connecticut, and from many prominent members of the Connecticut bar. The Federal Judiciary Committee of the Connecticut Bar Association unanimously found Justice Kahn to be "qualified" for a position on the Second Circuit, and the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary completed its evaluation and found Justice Kahn to be "well qualified" for the position. Justice Kahn has earned the respect of every legal community of which she has been a member, and she is well-prepared to serve Connecticut and the country on the Second Circuit.

I am proud to introduce Justice Kahn to the committee, and I am confident that you will find her to be as impressive as I have. I look forward to voting for her confirmation on the Senate floor.