

Angela M. Bertoni, MPA
Chief Executive Officer
sojdirector@gmail.com



1800 Westchester Blvd.
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Business Line: (217) 726-5100
24-Hour Hotline: (217) 726-5200
Fax: (217) 726-8664
Toll Free: (866) 435-7438
Website: www.sojournshelter.org

November 9, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Re: Nomination of Colleen Lawless to United States District Court Judge for the Central District of Illinois

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley and Judiciary Committee Members:

Sojourn Shelter and Services, Inc. (Sojourn) respectfully writes in strong support for the nomination of Colleen Lawless to serve on the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois. Sojourn is a certified domestic violence program that provides free and confidential services to adult and child survivors of domestic violence. Our mission is to build a community free of violence through service, leadership and education. Domestic violence has a permeating presence in our society. Since 1975, Sojourn has worked to empower and protect survivors of domestic violence and their legal rights as a victim of crime.

Through Sojourn's court advocacy program, we have had the pleasure of interacting with Judge Lawless frequently as an Associate Circuit Judge in the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court, State of Illinois. In the courtroom, Judge Lawless consistently takes into consideration many complex issues related to civil law cases including orders of protection and family cases involving survivors of domestic violence. She is well regarded as a fair and just decision-maker and receives a great level of respect in her courtroom. Judge Lawless is efficient and confident in handling cases in a trauma-informed manner to prevent further re-victimization while ensuring safe and fair decisions.

It is our opinion that Judge Lawless is firmly committed to justice and her leadership qualities will bring immense integrity to the federal bench. Sojourn is honored and proud to support the nomination of Colleen Lawless to the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois and hope that the nomination will be confirmed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erika H. Carlove".

Erika H. Carlove, ICADVP, CWEL
Director of Court Services

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela M. Bertoni".

Angela M. Bertoni, MPA
Chief Executive Officer

Our mission is to build a community free of violence through service, leadership and education.
Counties Served: Sangamon ♦ Logan ♦ Menard ♦ Christian ♦ Montgomery

