

November 1, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Gordon P. Gallagher, Judicial Nominee to the United States District Court for the District of Colorado

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

It is our honor to write to you and recommend Gordon Gallagher for the open position as District Judge for the United States District Court for the District of Colorado. Mr. Gallagher is currently a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Grand Junction, Colorado. As attorneys serving the Grand Valley area, many of us have known Mr. Gallagher since the mid-1990s.

Mr. Gallagher is one of those rare people who has worked every aspect of criminal cases. Gordon has been a prosecutor, a defense lawyer, and a judge. Now after 20 or more years of his career, he has a track record of excellent work in all three areas of criminal cases. Few federal judges have a substantial history of representing indigent defendants: Mr. Gallagher does, and he will bring his experience of prosecuting, defending, and judging to the federal district court bench.

Here are some of the comments that our local state court and federal court members offer in support of Mr. Gallagher's nomination:

If memory serves me correctly, I may have had the pleasure of being the defense lawyer on the near to last trial Gordon tried as a prosecutor. He was much younger then and already a strong, intellectually agile, and dedicated foe. As a defense lawyer, he exhibited these same qualities with the addition of a growing understanding of the law and its everyday application to the fast-paced practice of courtroom work.

I write in support of Gordon Gallagher's appointment as a judge with the U.S. District Court. As an attorney practicing in the 21st and 7th Colorado judicial districts, I have had the opportunity to observe Mr. Gallagher in court proceedings and to interact with him at community events. I have

always found Mr. Gallagher to be composed, thoughtful, gracious, and a professional of the highest caliber. Mr. Gallagher is an asset to our community as a practicing attorney and district court magistrate judge, and it would be a benefit to our entire federal district for him to be appointed as a sitting judge.


Gordon Gallagher treats participants with dignity and respect, bringing a real sense of fairness to what is often a difficult and frightening process for the accused. His communication is clear and concise, and he provides good written and verbal orders.

Gordon Gallagher would offer a virtually unique perspective to the federal bench in that his decades of experience are as a grass-roots level criminal defense attorney. He understands the impact of the law on the common man.

Judge Gallagher's court has been very compassionate when dealing with homeless Veterans who have been cited for crimes that would be considered misdemeanors had they not happened at the VA hospital. Often times, these Veterans are under duress and looking for help, but mental health issues and/or addiction issues impede their ability to adequately request what they need peacefully. Judge Gallagher understands that sentencing them to huge fines or jail time is counterproductive, especially since the reason they were at the VA was seeking assistance for healthcare, mental health assistance, or to get aid from case managers for help with housing. Our VA is nationally recognized for the exceptional care it gives our Veterans, and Judge Gallagher is an integral part of making sure our Veterans get the help they come to Grand Junction for so they can continue to access the VA Hospital and the resources provided there.

Most of the land mass of Colorado is not urban, it is rural; and yet, the non-urban is rarely represented among judges in the federal court system. Mr. Gallagher would bring his long history in western Colorado to the bench as an asset for all members of the federal bench in the Tenth Circuit. Through Mr. Gallagher's involvement in his local bar, as well as access to justice issues for pro-se litigants and various community organizations, he understands the issues and consequences of non-urban/rural participants in the federal court system.

We, the undersigned lawyers in Western Colorado, lend our support for one of our own, Gordon Gallagher and we highly recommend him to you, members of the Judiciary Committee, to the United State District Court.

Signed: 
/s/ Roberta M. Nieslanik, Esq.
(Retired) Deputy Director, The Office of Alternate Defense Counsel

**Jody Visconti Clow, Director
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**Stephan Schweissing
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