



PRESIDENT
RAKIM BROOKS

CHAIR
PAULETTE MEYER

December 12, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Durbin:

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing over 150 public interest and civil rights organizations, I write to strongly support the confirmation of Judge Gordan Gallagher to the United States District Court for the District of Colorado.

After receiving his B.A. from Macalester College, Judge Gallagher earned his J.D. from the University of Denver College of Law in 1996. He has remained in Colorado for the entirety of his legal career, diligently serving the Western Slope. For much of that career, Judge Gallagher has operated as a solo defense practitioner. For over twenty years, he has defended Coloradans in both felony cases and minor infractions. Judge Gallagher did not limit his services to those who could pay him. In 2000, the same year he opened his law firm, he also began serving as a contract attorney with the Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel, which provides representation to indigent defendants in juvenile and criminal cases when the assigned public defender has a conflict of interest.

Judge Gallagher's experience and dedication to the public led to his appointment to the United States District Court for the District of Colorado as a part-time Magistrate Judge in 2012. In this position, Judge Gallagher further developed deep ties to the District of Colorado and gained a unique understanding of the work of the District Court there. For example, he has presided over a significant number of supervised release violations arising from the Ute Mountain Ute Reservations and the Southern Ute Tribe. Even after ascending to the District Court, Judge Gallagher continues to promote justice for the disadvantaged. Notably, Judge Gallagher is Co-Chair of the United States District Court for the District of Colorado's Pro Se Prisoner Task Force, which was created to protect and oversee prisoners' right to self-represent. He oversees the pro se intake division for the District of Colorado, managing eight law clerks who review all pro se prisoner cases and non-prisoner pro se actions, as well as civil cases. Additionally, in 2020, he made significant changes to the review process to address the urgent and essential needs of prisoner requests relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to extensive legal and judicial experience and deep connections with the District of Colorado, Judge Gallagher has a demonstrated commitment to bettering and serving the legal community. He serves on the Board of Directors of Riverside Education Center in Grand Junction Colorado and previously served on the

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Board of Directors of Community Food Bank of Grand Junction and is a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association.

Judge Gallagher has dedicated his legal career to the defense of others – both his paying clients and indigent clients as well. As a magistrate judge in the District of Colorado, he has become familiar with and seasoned in both the procedures of the District Court and the nature of the cases that come before it. For these reasons, I urge you to confirm Judge Gallagher to the United States District Court for the District of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Rakim H.D. Brooks

Rakim Brooks
President, Alliance for Justice