

September 28, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Re: Support for the Nomination of Julie Rikelman to the U.S. Court of Appeals  
for the First Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We, the undersigned current and former prosecutors and law enforcement officials, write to the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of Julie Rikelman's nomination to serve as a federal judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

As prosecutors, we recognize the vital role of the United States Courts of Appeals in the American judicial system. Appellate courts are fundamental to the rights, safety, and livelihood of both the American people and institutions. Therefore, we do not take this endorsement lightly.

We have the utmost confidence that Ms. Rikelman will strengthen our judiciary and legal system. She is a highly accomplished attorney whose career has demonstrated her longstanding commitment to the rule of law and upholding our Constitution. Her 25-year legal career has been extremely varied; she has represented a broad range of clients and litigated a wide set of legal issues. She has represented large and small corporations, including Chase and NBC Universal, as well as Native Alaskan corporations, business executives, and individuals. And she has litigated on issues ranging from corporate contract disputes to securities fraud to environmental and constitutional law.

Ms. Rikelman's legal aptitude has twice taken her to the nation's highest court, entrusted to present arguments in major constitutional cases to the U.S. Supreme Court. In both instances, she earned plaudits and admiration from legal experts, and her arguments reflected her respect for the rule of law and individual liberty under the Constitution.

Ms. Rikelman possesses extremely strong legal credentials. She attended both Harvard College (graduating Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude) and Harvard Law School (graduating cum laude). She clerked for the first woman justice on the Alaska Supreme Court – Justice Dana Fabe – and a federal appeals judge nominated by President Ronald Reagan, Judge Morton Greenberg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She has been a litigator at a prestigious

corporate law firm, worked as in-house counsel at a major media company, and served as U.S. litigation director at a renowned global public interest legal organization.

Beyond her legal experience, Ms. Rikelman's deep-seated respect for the rule of law is informed by her personal background. She was born in the Soviet Union, where her family had lived in Ukraine for generations, and where her parents experienced Soviet anti-Semitism. Her mother was denied admission to medical school, and her father was denied educational and professional opportunities, all on account of their religion and heritage. Ms. Rikelman and her family came to the United States precisely because of this country's commitment to the rule of law and respect for religious freedom.

As leaders in law enforcement, we believe that both the rule of law and the public's confidence in the impartiality of our legal system are paramount. We are confident that Ms. Rikelman will uphold the U.S. Constitution and apply the law neutrally and fairly because she and her family have lived the experience where that was not the reality. She has dedicated much of her career to defending individual liberty and following constitutional precedent and the rule of law. Her professionalism and commitment to careful legal analysis has won her respect across the legal community.

Ms. Rikelman has the temperament, humility, and intellect to serve ably as a federal judge. She is superbly qualified for this position, and will be an exceptional guardian of our Constitution and its guarantee of equal justice for all. We urge the Senate to confirm her nomination to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Sincerely,

*Please note that employers of signatories are listed for identification purposes only*

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Assistant District Attorney, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office

Tristram Coffin

Director, Downs Rachlin Martin

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Michael Cotter

Former U.S. Attorney, District of Montana (2009-2017)

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