

**CONNECTICUT
VETERANS
LEGAL
CENTER**



U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
c/o U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal
303 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
EMAIL: David_Stooper@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

October 27, 2023

Re: Letter in Support of the Nomination of Sarah Russell
to the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

On behalf of the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center (CVLC), I write in support of the nomination and confirmation of Attorney Sarah Russell to fill a judicial vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut.

The Connecticut Veterans Legal Center (CVLC) was founded in 2009 as the United States' first medical-legal partnership with the Veterans Health Administration. CVLC works with clinicians to help veterans recovering from homelessness and mental illness overcome legal barriers to housing, healthcare, and income. Much of CVLC's practice focuses on veterans who unjustly received less-than-honorable discharges, providing them representation before VA in character of discharge determinations (CODs) as well as before the military discharge review boards and boards of correction for military/naval records.

The CVLC has worked with Attorney Russell as a supervising attorney for the Quinnipiac University School of Law Civil Justice Clinic. She, and the students under her supervision, have taken cases to help assist our disabled veterans with civil legal issues. The clinic has taken cases that needed to be appealed or were not in our normal area of representation.

Attorney Russell's temperament as an attorney and professor will transfer well to the bench. She is reasoned and thoughtful in her decision making. She has her students go through the paces to look at the various perspectives on a case. She is patient and thorough in her process. She goes the extra mile to get multiple perspectives and make sure that she and her students are prepared for the various scenarios that could arise.

As an advocate, she listens to her clients and zealously advocates on their behalf. They feel heard and obtain excellent representation in venues where they would not normally obtain representation. As a judge this ability to listen is paramount and ensures that all parties feel heard in the process.

In conclusion, Attorney Sarah Russell is a talented attorney and we strongly urge you to confirm her appointment to the bench in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison M. Weir". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "M".

Alison M. Weir
Executive Director