

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

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July 24, 2025

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. Senate  
135 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. Senate  
711 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Nomination of Joshua D. Dunlap to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit**

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

We write to you jointly, from across a broad spectrum of political views and legal philosophies, to voice our unanimous, enthusiastic support for the confirmation of Joshua D. Dunlap as a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. We all are Maine-licensed attorneys each with decades of experience in the First Circuit in a variety of fields. We have worked with Josh in various capacities, including as a law-firm colleague, co-counsel, and opposing counsel. We offer our support based on years-long familiarity with Josh's character and abilities.

Some of us have worked closely with Josh as a law firm colleague, since his earliest days as an associate up to his present practice as a law partner and recognized leading appellate litigator. We have observed repeatedly his remarkable raw talent for legal analysis, excellent writing, a strong work ethic, unusually impressive productivity, even-temperedness, grace under pressure, as well as excellent judgment and unassailable integrity. It is not surprising that now-Judge William J. Kayatta, Jr. and the late Ralph I. Lancaster, Jr. chose Josh to work with them when each was selected by the U.S. Supreme Court to serve as Special Master in original jurisdiction cases. Others of us have worked with Josh as co-counsel or opposing counsel or even as board member for an organization Josh has represented in significant litigation. We all similarly have admired his skill and unfailing professionalism. Josh is a colleague one truly likes working with, and he makes teams far better by being part of them. We have no doubt the current judges of the First Circuit would feel the same, having him as a colleague.

Many of us have appreciated Josh's work on the *Maine Appeals* blog, which follows the development of appellate law principally in the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, the First Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. His writings are notable for clearly-communicated, incisive analysis, helping the bar understand new legal developments, critically assessing the state of the law, and identifying important ongoing unanswered questions and directions the law may go in the future. Josh is uniquely well-suited to the judicial task of explaining the law to litigants and the public in decided cases.

Lawyers obviously do not agree in every case. We each hold Josh in the highest regard when we agree with him, as well as when we do not. We know that in every cause Josh takes up, he is committed to the values and duties of our professional oath: honesty with courts, clients and opposing counsel, and a duty to defend the rule of law and to promote advancement of the law through skilled advocacy. Josh embodies the finest traditions of the private bar. We have no doubt he will uphold the honored traditions of the federal judiciary in interpreting the law without bias, applying it, and fostering its development through the cases that come before the courts.

We believe candidates of only the very highest caliber should be considered to sit on the U.S. Courts of Appeals. Josh is such a candidate; he has all the qualities the finest judges exhibit: he is hard working, courteous and judicial in temperament, very smart, of sterling character, with a commitment to fairness and the rule of law, recognition of the dignity of all who come before the courts, and an ability not only to understand the law but to explain it clearly. Without reservation, we recommend the Committee advance the nomination of Josh Dunlap and that the Senate confirm his appointment to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

We thank you and your colleagues for your attention to this submission and for your public service in the critically important work of judicial selection for the Nation's courts.

Respectfully,

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