

The Honorable Richard Durbin – Chair

June 12, 2024

Committee on the Judiciary

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham

Ranking Member

Committee on the Judiciary

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Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I consider it an honor and privilege to submit this letter of enthusiastic support for the confirmation of Mary Kay Lanthier, to the distinguished position of United States District Court Judge, for the District of Vermont.

I have served the State of Vermont as a certified law enforcement officer for 36 years, the last 14 years serving as a Chief of Police in Brandon Vermont. My service now is as the Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Council which oversees the Vermont Police Academy.

I began my work in Rutland County Vermont, where this judicial seat is based, in 2004. I first became acquainted with Mary Kay in her capacity as a public defender. I was immediately drawn by her ability to endear herself to the clients she represented, as well as to the law enforcement community. Mary Kay has the ability to vigorously and competently defend her clients, while maintaining a professional relationship based on respect with law enforcement leaders, attorneys and court staff.

I have witnessed her innate ability to think on her feet, assess situations during trials, and present arguments quickly and persuasively. I have also been on the receiving end of cross examination by Mary Kay and found her to be quite competent, skilled in her arguments, and respectful all at once. Her demeanor and personality are all professional when in the courtroom, as demonstrated by interactions with judges and court staff I have witnessed. Yet as you leave the courtroom after cross examination, you are greeted by a smile and a thank you for your time during testimony. Mary Kay also has an incredible sense of humor that makes you feel she is approachable, which is why I believe she is as respected as she is by law enforcement officers, attorneys, and judges.

In my current position as Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Council, I oversee the Vermont Police Academy. Mary Kay has generously volunteered to provide educational opportunities for law enforcement recruits. For each academy basic recruit class, we conduct a “mock trial” to expose new recruits to the courtroom atmosphere, experience testimony and cross examination, and teach proper

procedure while in court. Mary Kay has offered her assistance with these mock trials, which provide recruits with insight as to how to prepare a case for trial, present testimony, and interact with a jury. This is over and above her day to day work schedule and commitments, yet the experience is important enough to her to share her insight with the basic recruits.

I have known Mary Kay personally for approximately 20 years, and I have come to really appreciate her talents over the last 10 or so years. In conversation with my law enforcement colleagues, I find their experiences and interactions with Mary Kay are all similar to mine which speaks to her ability to embody mutual respect within a system that at times can put people at odds.

Based upon my years of service in law enforcement, and my experiences in the judicial system, I believe Mary Kay is uniquely suited to have the judicial temperament necessary and required to hold the position of United States District Court judge for the District of Vermont. Her qualities of compassion, integrity, and patience will support her in serving the court well. I enthusiastically support her nomination and look forward to the United States Senate confirming her nomination.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christopher Brickell".

Christopher Brickell

Acting Executive Director

Vermont Criminal Justice Council