

May 2, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

My name is Candice Mangan and it is with great pleasure that I write a letter of support for the confirmation of Attorney Brian Murphy as Federal Judge of the United States District Court of Massachusetts. I wholeheartedly support President Biden's nomination of Brian Murphy. I first met Brian in 2021 in my search for the right attorney to represent me for the charges pending against me for tampering with a medication. My search for the right attorney during this extremely stressful time life seemed like an endless effort. We, my family, had met with multiple attorneys and none could fully understand or grasp what I had been through. I was a female paramedic and a firefighter for over 20 years with the latter of my career being during the Covid-19 pandemic. I am also a mother and a wife, the two jobs most important to me. We needed an attorney who understood that and could represent me as a female first responder. After countless and exhausting meetings, we met Brian. Our family knew a current State Judge in Massachusetts and we looked to her for guidance on the selection of an attorney. We shared with her my entire story and the kind of person we wanted to represent me. There was only one name she gave us that day and it was Brian Murphy. She believed he would represent me as a woman, as mother and as a First Responder. During a twenty minute phone call on speaker phone in my neighbor's living room, we knew this was the person I needed to represent me. Brian listened to every word my husband and I had to say. He answered every question I had in an honest and compassionate way. Brian could hear the fear in our voices and assured us he would work hard, doing everything in his power for a positive outcome. He never gave me false expectations and assured me he would always be straightforward and truthful. To this day he has been nothing but that.

Being a woman in a male dominated field is hard enough but to also be a full time mother and wife is a feat in itself. Brian understood that and represented them as much as he did me. I was a 43 year old woman who had never so much as had detention in school. I had never been in trouble in my life. As a first responder it was my duty to put others' lives before my own. That's all I knew how to do. While being a first responder comes with reward, it can also cost you being yourself and that's exactly what happened to me. Working as a Firefighter comes with a lot of despair. It's that despair that led to my PTSD, my addiction and then to the mistake that I made. I felt a lot of shame for what I did. I felt very much judged and felt very

weak. From the moment I met Brian, all those feelings went away. He did not judge me for the mistake I made nor did he make me feel weak or that I was a failure. Brian understood everything I had been through and how it could have led me to the path it did. After our decision to hire Brian as my attorney and up until now, he did exactly what he promised. He worked hard, was honest and always truthful. Brian shared with me that he was a husband and a proud father of 3. He understood what the meaning of family was. While Brian didn't believe I deserved to be incarcerated, he wanted me to understand from the beginning that there was a strong possibility. These are just some of the reasons that made me confident in my decision to be represented by Brian Murphy.

A large amount of my fear was the unknown. Brian took me step by step on how the Federal Justice system worked. He always took the time to make sure I understood everything that was happening with the process, even if that meant patiently explaining things multiple times. Throughout this whole process, Brian was always accessible. Even during a family trip to Africa, Brian took the time to call me and discuss any questions that I had. He introduced me to Restorative Justice, which was probably one of the best things to happen to me. We are human and we make mistakes. Brian guided me through every step which helped me to own my mistake. I was never just a Case number or Docket number to Brian. I was Candice Mangan.

At the time of our first meeting, my son Carsten was only 14. He was scared of losing his mother and I was afraid of losing him. I also feared what the public scrutiny would do to him at such a vulnerable time in his life. On multiple occasions Brian took the time to meet with him and answer all his questions honestly and compassionately. He made sure he was accessible to my entire family during this whole process. Brian also worked very hard to keep my story out of the media to protect my family as well. There was never a conversation had with Brian that he didn't ask how my husband and son were doing. Before meeting Brian, I believed the Justice System was there to strictly punish me for the mistake I made and did not care who I was or why I ended up down the road I did. I was mistaken. Going through this lengthy process with my case and with Brian representing me has given me faith in our system.

Brian from the moment I met him treated me like a human being, a woman and a mother, which is more than I can say for what I experienced in prison. He stayed in contact with my family during this most difficult time for us. To have someone who values every human life equally and also strives to uphold the laws of this country are qualities Brian most certainly has. I also had the pleasure of working with some of his newer female associates during this time and I personally saw these young lawyers benefitting from the experience and knowledge he had to share. Brian is a true role model for both men and women. Our Justice system would exponentially benefit from Brian's strengths and what he will bring to this role as a Federal Judge to the United States District Court of Massachusetts. I strongly recommend that the Senate confirm his nomination.

Thank you,

Candice Mangan