

May 23, 2024

The Honorable Richard Joseph Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[Sarah\\_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Sarah_Bauer@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
211 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[Ryan\\_Giles@judiciary-rep.senate.gov](mailto:Ryan_Giles@judiciary-rep.senate.gov)

Re: Confirmation of Julia M. Lipez to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We are retired Assistant United States Attorneys for the District of Maine who worked closely with Julia Lipez, now a Justice on the Maine Superior Court, as her supervisors and mentors from the time she was hired in 2011 until each of us left federal service years after that. We know first-hand that Justice Lipez is an exceptional lawyer and person. We also know well the high esteem in which Justice Lipez is held among her colleagues in the United States Attorney's Office, members of Maine's law enforcement community, the judiciary, and the defense bar. On the basis of our intimate knowledge of Justice Lipez's work and reputation, we believe she is exceptionally well qualified to serve as a Judge on the First Circuit Court of Appeals.

From Justice Lipez's first days as an AUSA, we could trust her to handle the most difficult and sensitive criminal cases with confidence that she would do so with expertise, integrity, and professionalism to ensure that justice would be served. During her tenure, Justice Lipez prosecuted some of the Office's most important and impactful cases. Appellate advocacy soon became her primary focus, as she argued dozens of cases before the First Circuit Court of Appeals. Her expertise in appellate practice led the United States Attorney to appoint her Appellate Chief in 2019. Justice Lipez was a superb federal prosecutor who exemplified the highest ideals of the United States Department of Justice in every case she prosecuted in the District Court and the Court of Appeals.

We witnessed that Justice Lipez's relationship with our law enforcement partners at all levels was one of mutual respect and admiration arising out of the leadership she demonstrated with those partners. To the countless victims of crime whose causes she championed, Justice Lipez's steady hand and calm presence were, to be sure, enormously comforting. To her colleagues in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Justice Lipez was a trusted friend and a respected adviser – a true “lawyer's lawyer.” We can say without fear of contradiction that Justice Lipez's colleagues in the bar and the judges before whom she practiced similarly held her in high regard. Justice Lipez's wisdom and commitment to equal justice under the law were always on full display during the years we worked together at the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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Each of us served for multiple decades as federal prosecutors and we were privileged to appear before many of the most highly respected judges in the nation. Those judges of distinction, as many have observed, exercised superb judicial temperament even during high-conflict litigation and passionate oral arguments. We know Julia Lipez well from observing her as she dealt with many challenging experiences inside and outside of courtrooms and we are confident that she also will exercise superb judicial temperament if she is confirmed as a Judge on the First Circuit Court of Appeals. We have no doubt that, as a Circuit Court Judge, Justice will conduct herself in the finest traditions of the Judiciary of Maine and the United States.

Sincerely,

Renée M. Bunker  
Appellate Chief, 2017-2019  
Assistant U.S. Attorney 1997-2017

James W. Chapman  
Assistant U.S. Attorney 2004-2018  
Trial Attorney, DOJ Tax Division 1986-  
2004

Jonathan R. Chapman  
Chief, Criminal Division, 2002-2019  
Assistant U.S. Attorney 1989-2019

Donald E. Clark  
Acting U.S. Attorney 2021  
First Assistant U.S. Attorney 2019-2021  
Assistant U.S. Attorney 1992-2023

Richard W. Murphy  
Acting U.S. Attorney 2017  
First Assistant U.S. Attorney 2010-2019  
Assistant U.S. Attorney 1990-2019

cc: Senator Susan Collins  
[Trent\\_Benishek@collins.senate.gov](mailto:Trent_Benishek@collins.senate.gov)

Senator Angus King  
[Sanjay\\_Kane@king.senate.gov](mailto:Sanjay_Kane@king.senate.gov)