



John J. McConnell, Jr.
Chief U.S. District Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
District of Rhode Island

February 2, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

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

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee:

At the request of United States Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, we, all the sitting judges of the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island, write to inform you that we wholeheartedly support the President's nomination of Judge Melissa R. DuBose as a district court judge in our district. We believe she is well qualified to serve on our bench.

Melissa's integrity is beyond reproach; her professional competence is varied and deep; and her judicial temperament is exemplary. Everyone on our Court is pleased at the possibility of welcoming Judge Dubose to the federal court if she is fortunate enough to be confirmed by the Senate.

As a Judge, Melissa has presided over criminal and civil cases in our state's busiest court. Court workers and watchers routinely compliment her on her temperament, demeanor, professionalism, and empathy. She treats court users (the term she likes to use, rather than other possibly pejorative terms) equally and with extreme respect—from newly arrested individuals on the arraignment calendar, self-represented litigants on the civil calendar, and all attorneys and staff.

Melissa was senior legal counsel at a multinational, publicly traded, Fortune 500 corporation, Schneider Electric, specializing in digital automation and energy management. During her time at Schneider Melissa worked on corporate ethics, fair

trade laws, and compliance with federal and state laws and regulations. She also managed Schneider litigation, both state and federal, and served as liaison to outside counsel.

As a Special Assistant Attorney General in Rhode Island, Melissa worked in the criminal division in the Juvenile Division and the Superior Court trial Unit.

As an inner-city public-school teacher, along with full time teaching and guidance responsibilities, Melissa developed Central High School's Street Law curriculum. She was beloved by the students and the administration.

Melissa has also been very engaged in the community. The RI Supreme Court Chief Justice selected her for a seat on the Rhode Island Foundation, a community Board administering a \$1.3 billion endowment. She was elected to the Board of Directors of the state's only law school, Roger Williams University School of Law. She is a member of the Committee on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in Rhode Island Courts. She received the prestigious Providence College National Alumni Associations 2021 Personal Achievement Award. And she has been a board member of the Rhode Island Industrial Facilities Corporation and is a past Commissioner of the Providence Board of Investment.

Melissa is a daughter of Providence. She grew up here, worked here, studied here, brought up her family here, lawyered here, and now judges here. Melissa is an outstanding choice to join the federal bench—she is supremely qualified, her ethics are impeccable, and her temperament is judicious.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Chief Judge John J. McConnell, Jr.
Judge William E. Smith
Judge Mary S. McElroy
Magistrate Judge Lincoln D. Almond
Magistrate Judge Patricia A. Sullivan