



COMMISSIONER LADON LINDE

DISTRICT 3

April 8, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. 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

Re: Rebecca L. Pennell, nominee for United States District Court for Eastern Washington

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee members,

It is my honor and privilege to provide support for the nomination of Ms. Rebecca L. Pennell to serve as a judge for the U.S District Court for Eastern Washington State.

Judge Pennell grew up in Eastern Washington and graduated from Stanford Law School with distinction in 1996. After graduating, Judge Pennell clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Robert Whaley in Spokane. In 1999, Judge Pennell moved to Yakima and eventually joined the Federal Defenders, where she practiced for over 15 years as a trial lawyer and appellate counsel. During that time, she helped establish re-entry drug court programs in Yakima and the Tri-Cities. Judge Pennell joined Division III of the Court of Appeals on January 19, 2016, and has served in that position since that time.

I have known Judge Pennell for the past three years, since I was appointed Yakima County Commissioner. I have gotten to know her during our time serving in our local Rotary Club together. I can tell you that Judge Pennell is personable and well-regarded in the community. She is very community-minded, and has served on the boards of other organizations, such as the YWCA.

She is well-regarded by judicial colleagues that I have spoken to. She has a reputation for adhering to and defending the law as it is written. I have taken the time to read some of her legal decisions in her current position. I find her to be solid and even-handed in her logic, as she carefully weighs all sides of the issues that come before her. She is a strong writer, and her conclusions have the weight of sound reasoning behind them. I also believe that having a well-qualified judge from our area will be beneficial to Central Washington.

Judge Pennell has my full support for this position. I sincerely hope that you will give her full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

LaDon Linde
Commissioner, District 3