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April 1, 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: Judge Rebecca L. Pennell, Nominee for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I provide this letter of support for Judge Rebecca L. Pennell for an appointment to the United States District Court, Eastern District of Washington. I am currently a Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Yakima County, located in Eastern Washington. I work solely in the Appellate Unit of my office. Prior to accepting this role in February 2023, I worked for approximately 12 years as an appellate public defender in our state court system. I also spent two and one-half years as a law clerk in Judge Pennell's current court, the Washington State Court of Appeals, Division III, to the Honorable Stephen M. Brown. I have appeared before Judge Pennell as an appellate practitioner for the last eight years, since she joined the Court of Appeals in January 2016. This letter is provided not in my current official capacity as a Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, but generally as an attorney who has appeared before Judge Pennell.


On the bench, Judge Pennell is respectful and professional. She listens to both sides of each argument and maintains a calm and professional tone in her questioning. However, she is not afraid to push back if the parties (including myself) have made an argument that she does not believe is supported by the facts and law before her. It is clear that Judge Pennell reads the briefing, appellate record, and relevant law prior to oral argument. Her questions are advanced; she knows the law well and she is seeking to reach the correct legal conclusion for the arguments

raised. In my experience, she stands out among her colleagues in terms of her preparation and active involvement in oral arguments with the parties before her Court.

My experience is that Judge Pennell wants to clearly understand the facts and procedural posture, so she can correctly apply the law and get to the correct result in each case. I do not find her to be a Judge with an agenda. I find her to be a Judge who loves the law, respects the law, and seeks to apply it in the most analytically appropriate way in each case.

It is my opinion that Judge Pennell has the legal acumen, work ethic, and devotion to the rule of law required to make her an excellent addition to the United States District Court. Please contact me if I can provide further information. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jill S. Reuter