

November 10, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Confirmation of Magistrate Judge Gordon Gallagher for Appointment
to the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

As former U.S. Attorneys for the District of Colorado, we write in support of the confirmation of U.S. Magistrate Judge Gordon Gallagher to the federal District Court for the District of Colorado.

We are familiar with Magistrate Judge Gallagher through direct personal experience as well as reputational knowledge of his record as a federal judicial officer and practicing lawyer. We strongly urge that Judge Gallagher be confirmed to fill the vacancy coming available on the Colorado District Court trial bench.

Judge Gallagher has served with distinction since his appointment in 2012 as a part-time federal Magistrate Judge, sitting as the only resident federal judicial officer in Grand Junction on the Western Slope of Colorado. He is widely admired in the Colorado legal community for his fairness, intellect, work ethic, as well as his calm and respectful courtroom demeanor. His judicial skills have been honed by efficiently handling a heavy caseload, while writing thoughtful opinions on often novel questions of law. And he has done this important work bringing the U.S. District Court for Colorado to the Western Slope while simultaneously managing a solo law practice in the state courts in Mesa County.

Judge Gallagher's experience is deep and particularly valuable to the District Court bench. He has served over two hundred indigent clients as court-appointed counsel. Additionally, as described further below, he has had extensive involvement with procedurally addressing the challenges *pro se* litigants face and the effect of such cases on the Court. In addition – and of particular importance – he has actively engaged with and sought to address the tremendous difficulties of criminal prosecutions in cases from the two Indian Reservations in Western Colorado. As former U.S. Attorneys for Colorado, we recognize this skill set as particularly valuable to address some of the biggest priorities for the federal courts here in Colorado: Managing criminal actions, *pro se* litigation, and matters involving the two Ute Tribes. And at the same time, based on Judge Gallagher's long track record as magistrate judge, we have confidence in his neutrality and fairness in the courtroom to all parties, including federal prosecutors appearing before him.

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Judge Gallagher has handled high profile, difficult matters and conducted multiple trials. Moreover, despite his extensive workload, Judge Gallagher has made time for important committee work for the U.S. District Court. In 2016, then-Chief Judge Krieger established the Pro Se Working Group and appointed Judge Gallagher as Chair. During his time as Chair, the Pro Se Working Group brought to fruition such significant projects as the Federal Pro Se Clinic and the Federal Limited Appearance Program. Chief Judge Brimmer later appointed Magistrate Judge Gallagher and Magistrate Judge Mix to co-chair the Court's Pro Se Prisoner Task Force to find ways to manage prisoner litigation fairly and effectively. Magistrate Judge Gallagher has similarly demonstrated effective and collaborative leadership for the Court in creating and implementing technological innovations that have improved access to and the efficiency of federal judicial services on the Western Slope. In sum, Judge Gallagher has contributed mightily to the priorities and challenges of the U.S. District Court.

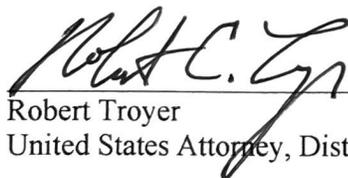
We also want to highlight that Judge Gallagher's long-time legal practice on the Western Slope puts him in particularly strong position to serve that part of Colorado, far from the populous Front Range of Colorado, where all Article III U.S. District Court judges currently reside. We are hopeful that the District Court will conclude that Judge Gallagher should preside in Grand Junction, further acting on the long-standing and ongoing efforts of the Court, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the legal profession to ensure that the U.S. District Court is fully present outside the Denver metropolitan area.

Based on this compelling record, we believe that Judge Gallagher would bring to his work as a District Judge a deep sense of fairness, intellectual rigor, hard work and exemplary demeanor. We therefore strongly support the confirmation of Gordon Gallagher for appointment to the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado.

Very truly yours,



Jason Dunn
United States Attorney, District of Colorado (2018-2021)



Robert Troyer
United States Attorney, District of Colorado (2017-2018)

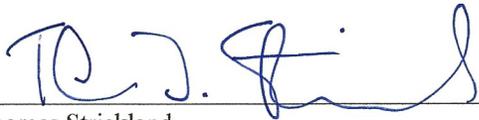


John Walsh
United States Attorney, District of Colorado (2010-2016)
Chair, Attorney General's Advisory Committee of United State Attorneys (2015-2016)

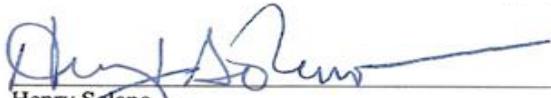
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John Suthers
United States Attorney, District of Colorado (2001-2004)



Thomas Strickland
United States Attorney, District of Colorado (1999-2001)



Henry Solano
United States Attorney, District of Colorado (1995-1999)
Attorney General's Advisory Committee of United States Attorneys (1994-1995)

cc: Senator Michael Bennet
Senator John Hickenlooper