



PETER C. CAVANAGH

JUSTICE OF THE APPELLATE COURT
FOURTH DISTRICT
STATE OF ILLINOIS

TELEPHONE
(217) 558-0365
TELEFAX
(217) 558-0371

2319 WEST JEFFERSON, SUITE 200
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62702

November 7, 2022

Honorable Richard Durbin, Chair
Honorable Charles Grassley, Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee of the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Appointment of Judge Colleen R. Lawless to the United States District Court

Dear Senator Durbin, Senator Grassley, and Committee Members:

I respectfully request that you consider this letter in support of the appointment of Judge Colleen R. Lawless, a nominee for the United States District Court, Central District of Illinois. Judge Lawless practiced in my courtroom at the trial court level and impressed as a tremendous litigator who adroitly practiced her craft in a seamless manner. Judge Lawless is an intelligent and driven problem-solver. I am proud to have joined a large panel of circuit court judges that voted to appoint Judge Lawless to the bench.

Since assuming the bench, Judge Lawless has proved herself to be a star jurist in a large courthouse crowded with excellent judges. She is the consummate professional. Prepared for anything that comes before her, Judge Lawless tackles all cases with professionalism, fairness, and grace. To use the parlance of many successful businesses, this conscientious, hard-working, judge is a "must hire."

I commend the Honorable Richard Durbin and the Nomination Committee for selecting Judge Lawless. While the legal community at the state level will miss her judicial excellence, the federal bench will benefit greatly with her elevation.

I hope my enthusiastic recommendation of Judge Lawless conveys to the Committee as a whole that she has tremendous ability, a stellar work-ethic, and that she serves without favor or bias to any litigant or entity.

Respectfully submitted,


Peter C. Cavanagh