

May 20, 2022

Senator Dick Durbin  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Chuck Grassley  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The undersigned are lawyers who practice in Connecticut. We previously have served as advisors and appointees of Republican officials and have been involved in the selection and vetting of judges. We write today to support the nomination of United States District Judge Sarah Merriam to serve as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

We have known and interacted with Judge Merriam for many years, beginning with her time as a young lawyer clerking for a district judge in Connecticut and then working at a prominent boutique law firm in Hartford. Even early in her career, she displayed a distinctive diligence and aptitude. She quickly developed a reputation as someone who is smart, curious, and unfailingly collegial.

Sarah excelled in private practice but aspired to a career in public service. This goal came to fruition when she accepted a position with the federal Public Defender's office. There Sarah was known for representing her clients zealously, diligently, and effectively. She was also a resource for those of us in private practice when we faced nuanced procedural and sentencing issues. Although there were lawyers in the District with more years of experience than Sarah, few shared her depth of knowledge about federal criminal practice or her responsiveness and generosity.

Approximately seven years ago, Sarah was appointed a United States Magistrate Judge in Connecticut. Then, last year, she was nominated and confirmed as a United States District Judge. Judge Merriam has continued to distinguish herself as a jurist. Her demeanor is impeccable. She treats the lawyers and litigants who appear before her with courtesy and respect. She is collegial and maintains a sense of humor. She is an impartial arbiter who approaches each case and every issue with dispassionate fairness.

As a law clerk, private practitioner, public defender, magistrate judge, and district judge, Judge Merriam has been nothing less than outstanding. While we will hate to lose Judge Merriam as a district judge in Connecticut, we know she will make an excellent appeals court judge. We encourage the Senate to quickly confirm Judge Merriam.

/s/

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cc: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee