

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

As legal adversaries who have prosecuted clients of Lara Montecalvo, we write to offer our unreserved endorsement of her nomination as Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Between 2004 to the present, Ms. Montecalvo has represented indigent criminal defendants in cases involving a wide diversity of factual and legal matters. In every one of those cases, we were witness to Ms. Montecalvo's devotion not only to the best interest of her clients, but to her steadfast fidelity to the rule of law and the interests of justice. Whether as a trial or appellate court counsel, Ms. Montecalvo's representation of and concern for her clients was always first rate, a product not only of her keen intelligence and highly skilled written and oral advocacy, but also of her extraordinary work ethic and commitment to the best-interests of her indigent clients. As impressive, at least from our prosecutors' perspective, is that Ms. Montecalvo provided such outstanding representation while consistently maintaining a most congenial demeanor with opposing counsel, and even under the most trying courtroom circumstances, and was a constant model of attorney collegiality and fellowship. For this reason, in and out of court – and in every Rhode Island state court from the district court through the Rhode Island Supreme Court – many of us would converse with her about timely and important criminal justice topics, and benefit so much from her thoughtful and practical wise counsel on these matters.

Moreover, as prosecutors committed to the rule of law and fairness to all litigants, we were impressed by Ms. Montecalvo's appreciation for prosecutorial prerogatives, and for the day-to-day and institutional challenges faced by law enforcement. As well, in our dealings with Ms. Montecalvo, we have recognized and appreciated her practical approach to problem solving, her easy accessibility, and her innate mindfulness as to the human, real life, consequences of her decisions.

For these reasons, we strongly recommend your favorable consideration of Ms. Montecalvo's nomination to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. She is an exemplary, highly qualified, attorney who will serve with distinction and honor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Weisman, former United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island

The Honorable Peter Neronha, Rhode Island Attorney General and former United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island

The Honorable James O'Neil, former Rhode Island Attorney General

The Honorable Jeffrey Pine, former Rhode Island Attorney General

The Honorable Patrick Lynch, former Rhode Island Attorney General

The Honorable Peter Kilmartin, former Rhode Island Attorney General

The Honorable Alan R. Goulart, Magistrate, Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal and former Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island

The Honorable Jeanine Perella McConaghy, Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Family Court and former Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island

The Honorable Felix E. "Feidlim" Gill, Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Family Court and former Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island

The Honorable J. Patrick O'Neill, Rhode Island District Court Magistrate and former Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island

The Honorable William Trezvant, Associate Judge of the Rhode Island District Court and former Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island

Richard Rose, former Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island

Thomas Dickinson, former Deputy Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island

Erik Wallin, Executive Director and General Counsel - Operation Stand Down Rhode Island and former Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island

Kathleen Kelly, General Counsel for the Rhode Island Supreme Court and former Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island

Melissa Larsen, former Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island

Bethany Macktaz, former Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island

Laura Pisaturo, Chairperson of the Rhode Island Parole Board and former Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island

Thomas H. O'Brien, Lt. Colonel Staff Judge Advocate JFHQ-RIANG and former Assistant Attorney General for the State of Rhode Island