

Superior Court of Rhode Island

Alice Bridget Gibney

Presiding Justice

Associate Justices:

Robert D. Krause
Melanie Wilk Thunberg
Netti C. Vogel
Stephen P. Nugent
Daniel A. Procaccini
Jeffrey A. Lanphear
William E. Carnes, Jr.

Kristin E. Rodgers
Brian P. Stern
Brian Van Couyghen
Sarah Taft-Carter
Luis M. Matos
Joseph A. Montalbano
Richard A. Licht

Maureen B. Keough
Melissa E. Darigan
Richard D. Raspallo
Linda Rekas Sloan
R. David Cruise
Kevin F. McHugh

Magistrates:

Patrick T. Burke
John F. McBurney III
John J. Flynn
Gina K. Lopes
William P. Rampone

May 20, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

It is with great pleasure that we respectfully offer our unreserved endorsement for the nomination of Lara E. Montecalvo to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. As current and retired members of the Rhode Island Judiciary, we are a diverse group with varied backgrounds: former state and federal prosecutors, large firm lawyers, solo practitioners, and public sector attorneys. We are unified nonetheless in our support for Lara's nomination, as we know from our experience that she is a talented lawyer and dedicated public servant who has consistently demonstrated fairness to all and a commitment to the rule of law.

As her resume reflects, Lara has a wealth of experience as a practicing attorney such that we need not expand the length of this letter by reciting all her notable achievements. As a lawyer for the Department of Justice and then with the Rhode Island Public Defender's Office, Lara has distinguished herself as an insightful advocate and highly skilled writer. She has represented a diverse group of litigants, often including the most vulnerable and marginalized members of the community, in cases that are both varied and complex; accomplishments made even more remarkable when one considers the overwhelming caseloads and perpetual lack of resources available to our public sector attorneys. Yet despite these many hurdles and the overwhelming

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Page Two
May 20, 2022

pressure attendant to her position, Lara has continuously impressed us with her dedication and commitment, and we can say without hesitation that she enjoys an impeccable reputation with the bench and the bar alike.

What truly sets Lara apart, however, is that she has been able to accomplish all of this without ever losing sight of the humanity attendant to our work in the justice system. Throughout her career, Lara has managed always to be a vigorous advocate while simultaneously demonstrating an unwavering respect for the government's position and an appreciation for the critical role played by our law enforcement officials. Her integrity, grace and humility are unparalleled, enabling her to foster the culture of collegiality and professionalism that are the hallmarks of the Rhode Island Bar. Simply stated, those of us who have had the privilege of working with her are better for the experience and there is no doubt that her transition from litigator to jurist would be seamless.

We take seriously the opportunity to urge favorable consideration of an individual for such an important position. We have absolutely no reservations about making such a recommendation for Lara. She is a woman who possesses the requisite intelligence, unflappable demeanor, and unquestionable character necessary for the position on the First Circuit Court of Appeals. She is a candidate whom this Committee could be proud to support and we respectfully urge this body to forward her nomination to the Senate for advice and consent.

If we can be of any further assistance or you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Presiding Justice Alice Bridget Gibney

Associate Justice Robert D. Krause

Associate Justice Melanie Wilk Thunberg

Associate Justice Netti C. Vogel

Associate Justice Stephen P. Nugent

Associate Justice Daniel A. Procaccini

Associate Justice Jeffrey A. Lanphear

Associate Justice William E. Carnes, Jr.

Associate Justice Kristin E. Rodgers

Associate Justice Sarah Taft-Carter

Associate Justice Brian Van Couyghen

Associate Justice Luis M. Matos

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Page Three
May 20, 2022

Associate Justice Joseph A. Montalbano

Associate Justice Maureen B. Keough

Associate Justice Richard D. Raspallo

Associate Justice R. David Cruise

General Magistrate Gina K. Lopes

Magistrate John F. McBurney III

Magistrate William P. Rampone

Ret. Assoc. Justice Edward C. Clifton

Associate Justice Richard A. Licht

Associate Justice Melissa E. Darigan

Associate Justice Linda Rekas Sloan

Associate Justice Kevin F. McHugh

Special Magistrate Patrick T. Burke

Magistrate John J. Flynn

Ret. Assoc. Justice Francis J. Darigan, Jr.

Ret. Assoc. Justice Susan E. McGuirl