

May 1, 2023

Dear members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today, not in my official capacity as a member of the Office of the Defender General, but in my personal capacity as a practicing lawyer, in support of Dickson Corbett's nomination to the Superior Court bench.

I have worked with Dickson in a number of contexts – as opposing counsel in criminal cases, as the elected State's Attorney in sorting out managerial complications between our offices, and as a co-member of the Supreme Court advisory committees on Family Rules and Evidence Rules. In all of my dealings with Dickson, he has been consistently humble, thoughtful, considerate, and collegial.

Though I am a career defense attorney and Dickson is a prosecutor, I have a tremendous amount of respect for Dickson's encyclopedic knowledge of the law and procedure, his willingness to consider arguments from all sides, and most of all his dedication to being a "problem-solver." Dickson's interest in seeing the justice system work effectively, efficiently, and humanely shows in all the work he does, whether in a rules committee or while negotiating a case.

I am sure that Dickson will be a great asset to the judiciary. There are many lawyers, like Dickson, who know the law and understand the practice and could probably manage a judicial docket. There are exceedingly few lawyers though, like Dickson, though, who understand the judicial system at both a macro and micro level and who are so dedicated to making a complicated, adversarial, sometimes fractious system work effectively. Dickson is exactly the kind of fair, equitable, thoughtful judge that our courts need.

Thank you,
Marshall Pahl