

Mr. Mattheis,

I am a liberal Democrat living in Shelburne, Vermont, who strongly supports Mike Drescher's nomination to the Vermont Supreme Court. I understand that there is some question as to whether Mike is the right candidate for the job, due to the ICE cases he has prosecuted over the past year.

Mike Drescher has been fulfilling his job duties under extremely trying circumstances, and in a political climate not supported by many in Vermont. I work with immigrant and refugee families in the school system and have witnessed how ICE's actions can impact them. But, I also believe that we should not blame career attorneys for the positions they have to take in court. My understanding is that he personally handled cases as the lead attorney, so that others wouldn't have to. In other words, he threw himself in front of the bus. I can unfortunately envision a future where I might be told not to teach certain subjects. I would have to comply, though it would pain me to do so. However, in order to continue to have a positive impact on my students, I would. Sometimes in life, we have to weigh the options, and I don't fault Mike for having to make this choice. Mike and I have mutual friends, and I understand him to be a kind and thoughtful person.

I can see why there might be some hesitation about this appointment, but as someone who has spent his entire career working in Vermont courts, I feel he would be a great addition to the bench. I would be happy to discuss this matter with you further, if you have continued reservations.

Thank you for your time,
Jennie Hoenigsberg