

Good morning Chairman Hashim and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

It's been 35 years since I served as a member of the Vermont House. Since my departure I have never written a letter to a standing committee on an appointment, primarily because over the years the political appointments have not been all that controversial. That appears to not be the case with the governor's two appointments to our Supreme Court; Christina Nolan and Michael Drescher.

I will state that I do not know, nor have I met either of these two individuals. I simply know what I've read and heard. My reaction to what I've read is, "can't we do better"? There are many, highly qualified attorneys in Vermont who would serve with distinction. I'm not thoroughly convinced that this would be the case with these nominees.

I would refer you to the editorial of the Valley News:

<https://vnews.com/2026/01/16/vermont-supreme-court-nominee-drescher/>

I find the following response disturbing; "Drescher's response to lawmakers' questions about these two cases have so far amounted to, "I was just doing my job," and "somebody had to do it." He argued that it would be unfair to conclude that he backed the Trump administration's immigration policies simply because he represented the government in court. "It would be similar to suggesting that a criminal defense lawyer should be responsible for her client's crimes."

The qualifications for serving on Vermont's highest court are, or should be, that the nominee knows right from wrong and when confronted with a decision with which he may not agree, then I would think he/she would stand their ground and refuse to what they feel is wrong.

I think Vermont would be better served with nominees that better represent Vermonters. I would respectfully ask that you deny both of these candidates.

Thank you for listening.

Bob Stannard