

Good morning -

I am writing to you in opposition of the Governor's nominees to the Vermont Supreme Court.

Let me introduce myself. I have lived in Montpelier since 1988 when I was hired to work as a public defender in the Defender General's Office. Before moving to Vermont, I worked for the New York City Legal Aid Society in that organization's Criminal Appeals Bureau. For the last 38 years I have been involved in public defense in various capacities. I was admitted to the United States District Court for the District of Vermont in 1992 and have been a member of the Criminal Justice Act panels in Vermont and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. I have tried over 100 criminal and civil cases in Vermont and have argued almost as many appeals, including 24 cases before the Vermont Supreme Court. I am currently special counsel with Gravel & Shea where I represent clients involved in civil and criminal litigation.

Having practiced criminal law in the Vermont's federal court, I know both Christina Nolan and Michael Drescher. In my opinion, they are fine attorneys and I have no personal animosity toward either of them. In fact, I personally congratulated Mr. Drescher on his nomination just hours before I learned that an ICE agent murdered Renee Good in Minneapolis on January 7, 2026.

My objection to their nominations is based on the decisions that they have made while working in President Trump's Justice Department during his first term (Christina Nolan) and his second term (Michael Drescher).

As you know, a violent mob stormed the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021 in an attempt to prevent Congress from counting the Electoral College votes that confirmed that Joseph Biden had prevailed in the November 2020 election. At the time, Ms. Nolan was serving the United States Attorney in Vermont. But unlike other high ranking federal officials such as Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, Stephanie Grisham, Sarah Matthews, Mick Mulvaney, and Tyler Goodspeed, Ms. Nolan did not resign her position in protest to that assault on American democracy. Instead, she chose to continue to serve President Trump who was later indicted for inciting the mob. Although Ms. Nolan belatedly criticized the violent insurrection while she was running for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate, I have found no evidence that she has ever publicly criticized President Trump's decision to give a blanket pardon to the violent criminals who were convicted of sedition against the United States and assaulting police officers. In my mind, her failure to resign in protest to the President's unprecedented attempt to remain in power after he lost the election and her failure to condemn or otherwise criticize the blanket pardons given to the President's criminal foot soldiers render Ms. Nolan unworthy of a seat on this state's highest court.

While I understand Mr. Drescher's testimony that he was only doing his job when he was involved in the high-profile deportation cases that were litigated in the United States District Court, in my opinion, he had a moral obligation to resign from his position in the United States Justice Department after an ICE agent shot and killed Renee Good. What's worse is his decision to stay on board after government officials attempted to smear Ms. Good and her surviving

spouse after the agent murdered Ms. Good and his department's decision to investigate Ms. Good and her wife instead of the agent who fired three shots into Ms. Good's moving car for no reason.

We all make choices in our personal and professional lives. The decisions Ms. Nolan and Mr. Drescher made while serving in Trump's Justice Department indicate that they are more interested in advancing their professional careers than they are in protecting the rights of people who live in this country and American democracy.

In light of the Trump Administration's continued assault on civil rights and civil liberties (just this week, his Justice Department targeted a Vermont school because of its anti-discrimination policy), I would urge you to oppose the Governor's nominations of two of his loyal servants to the Vermont Supreme Court. In my opinion, a vote to confirm either Ms. Nolan or Mr. Drescher will be seen as a public endorsement of Trump's cruel agenda.

I am currently traveling overseas and will not be back home until mid-March. Because I am unable to testify publicly, I would ask you to introduce this message into the Judiciary Committee's record and share it with the nominees so that they could have an opportunity to respond to anything I have had to say.

Thank you.

David J. Williams