

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am a resident of Starksboro writing with concerns about Governor Scott's appointments of Michael Drescher and Christina Nolan to the Vermont Supreme Court.

As a state attorney, Michael Drescher has consistently enforced policies of the U.S. Justice Department under President Donald Trump by representing Immigration and Customs Enforcement in cases that have been revealed as being strictly political in nature (most notably that of Mohsen Mahdawi and Rümeysa Öztürk). In addition, he filed federal charges that carry the death penalty for the first time in state cases in years. A dubious distinction at best.

During the first Trump administration, Christina Nolan looked the other way while immigrant families were separated and their children were detained in cages. In addition, her excuse for a recent violation of gun laws rings hollow. In my mind, it is poor judgement to enroll in a gun safety course only after you have been found in violation of the law.

At a time when strong moral and ethical character is in demand in order to face a clearly authoritarian federal administration, both of these justices have demonstrated a lack of ethics and poor judgement that disqualifies them from a lifetime appointment to the Vermont Supreme Court. For these reasons I would ask that you reject both of these nominations and ask Governor Scott to select more suitable candidates.

Sincerely,

Frank Spina