

Dear Senators Hashim, Norris, Vyhovsky, Baruth, and Mattos:

I am a litigator in Vermont's state courts and I have been representing Vermonters accused of crimes and in other matters for twenty years. I am writing to oppose the appointments of Christina Nolan and Michael Drescher to the Vermont Supreme Court.

There are several reasons to oppose these candidates. First, neither has sufficient experience practicing in state court to run the judiciary nor to shape the future of Vermont law. Second, appointing two federal prosecutors to the supreme court skews the balance of the court in favor of the government and against individual rights, and further erodes our judiciary's expertise in areas of law other than criminal law. In choosing Nolan and Drescher, the Governor overlooked several candidates with substantial experience in state court and demonstrated abilities to be neutral arbiters of cases (i.e., Judges Tomasi, Treadwell, Corbett).

Furthermore, Christina Nolan lacks judgment as evidenced by her recent attempt to bring a gun into a courthouse (story [here](#)) which as you are aware is a crime in Vermont (statute [here](#)). (I have heard rumors that she was unaware that she had a gun, which if true is, frankly, terrifying recklessness.) Additionally, the people of Vermont have already rejected Christina Nolan for a leadership position: she lost the Republican primary for U.S. Senate to Gerald Malloy (article [here](#)). She should not now be put in charge of our judiciary.

Michael Drescher's individual record is no better. Mr. Drescher was instrumental in the Trump Administration's attempt to incarcerate and deport Rumeysa Ozturk for penning an op-ed in her college student newspaper. He did everything he could to keep Ms. Ozturk's case out of Vermont (article [here](#)) and then once a federal court ordered her back to Vermont he did everything he could to keep her incarcerated (article [here](#)). The government's case against Ms. Ozturk was disturbingly weak, and a principled prosecutor would not have pursued it due to the chilling effect on free speech not to mention the dire individual cost to Ms. Ozturk. See [article](#) ("Ruling from the bench on Friday afternoon, Sessions appeared almost surprised that federal officials had not, he said, pointed to evidence other than the op-ed for why they arrested Öztürk in the first place, saying the student had raised a 'very substantial' claim that her rights under the First Amendment had been violated.")

I hope you will take these issues into consideration and decline to recommend these appointments your colleagues in the state senate.

Sincerely yours,  
Kelly Green

Kelly Green, Esq.  
Office of Defender General

There was a hearing yesterday in Ms. Ozturk's and Mr. Mahdawi's cases in Boston and the (Republican-appointed) federal judge presiding over it eviscerated the government for its conspiracy to violate their rights. Here is an article describing the hearing:

<https://www.politico.com/news/2026/01/15/unconstitutional-conspiracy-judge-slams-trump-administration-over-targeted-deportations-00733070>

The violations were so clear, so obvious, and so noxious that Attorney Drescher's advocacy of these violations disqualifies him for a leadership position in our court system.

Many thanks,  
Kelly Green