

Dear Senators,

As you consider Mr. Drescher's nomination for the position of Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court, I urge you to keep in mind John Adams' courage in representing the British soldiers facing charges for murdering five colonists in the Boston Massacre. It was a very unpopular decision, but Adams took it because he believed in the importance of law and knew that effective representation was critical to the functioning of law.

As reported in the media, Mr. Drescher, the Acting US Attorney for the District of Vermont, personally represented the government in the cases against [Rümeysa Öztürk and Mohsen Mahdawi](#). The court needed proper and competent representation of all parties, and Mr. Drescher provided that on behalf of the government, taking onto himself the risk of suffering adverse consequences from his superiors in the Justice Department. He could have delegated the cases to his subordinates - he did not. I think that is a valuable testimonial to his character and integrity, and not something that should be held against him, any more than defending the British soldiers should have been held against John Adams in the Boston Massacre case.

James M Dean
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