

Senator Hashim:

I'm writing to tell you that I fully endorse the concerns raised by Judge Wesley in his recent letter to you regarding Michael Drescher. Mr. Drescher could have chosen to resign rather than to defend patently unlawful detentions of both Mr. Madawi and Ms. Ozturk, as many other U.S. Attorneys have done around the country. He chose to stay. What similar cowardly choices will he make as a Supreme Court Justice?

Also, I am puzzled by the Governor's choice to nominate Christina Nolan, who, only a few months ago brought a firearm into our local courthouse and then twice denied that she had a gun when security staff asked her about it. Surely there are qualified candidates who do not have a record of recent conduct of this kind?

The fact that neither of these candidates has significant Vermont state court experience or any judicial or quasijudicial experience compounds my concerns. I wonder whether they even fully understand the structure of the Vermont Judiciary and the roles of all of our court divisions? The committee may want to consider asking them that question.

I hope you and your committee will continue to give both candidates very careful review. Thanks for considering my thoughts on this important matter.

Kate Hayes
Retired Superior Judge