

January 25, 2026

To: Vermont Senate Judiciary Committee

**From: Laura Wilson, Esq.
of: Young & Wilson, PC
Lyndonville, VT.**

Re: Written Testimony Opposed to the Confirmation of Christina Nolan to the Vermont Supreme Court

Over the course of the Committee's confirmation hearings this month, I have watched/listened carefully to all the proceedings and considered Ms. Nolan's statements and answers to questions.

I have been a part of Vermont's legal community since 2011, when I was admitted to practice law. Since then, I have been a defense attorney, practicing on the criminal and juvenile dockets here in the Northeast Kingdom and more recently, as a defense attorney in the northern NH counties of Coos and Grafton, and also as a CJA Panel Attorney in Vermont and NH federal courts.

As the Committee knows, yesterday federal agents dispatched to Minneapolis by Donald Trump committed their second murder in two weeks, of law-abiding citizens. We are on a dangerous precipice, escalated by the Trump administration.

What should be done here in Vermont about this frightening escalation? Who do we want as part of our institutions, including on the Vermont Supreme Court? Former Supreme Court Justice Amestoy on Friday urged this Committee to not overreact to Donald Trump and to avoid making decisions based on "the shadow of Donald Trump." But we cannot afford at this point to ignore, dismiss, minimize, or overlook that shadow. It is a clear and present danger. Now more than ever, our institutions and our courts should consist of people who can act as bold and decisive checks against the Trump administration, particularly as it sends troops and other federal agents into cities and states Trump does not like.

Is Ms. Nolan a person who can act boldly and decisively as the check we need at this critical juncture? I submit to you that she is not. Her known political affiliation as a Republican is not the point. There are many in the Republican party who have managed to question, disavow, and speak up against the excesses of the Trump era. To my knowledge, she has never done so, either as a Trump appointee to the Dept of Justice, as a candidate running for office in Vermont, or in her testimony before this Committee.

She is a Trump loyalist. She has never raised her voice, condemned, or spoken out against the various excesses of this administration. She did not do so when Trump incited and encouraged a mob of violent rioters in their attempt to overturn the 2020 election, nor did she do so when

Trump later pardoned the J6 rioters/convicted criminals. To my knowledge, she has never spoken out against the Trump's recent deployment of federal troops to American cities or ICE's murder of Rene Good in Minneapolis. Again, she is fundamentally a Trump loyalist, and at this point, her loyalty is more than simple partisanship. It taints her. She does not belong on the Vermont Supreme Court.

Finally—although of secondary importance—a word about Ms. Nolan's bringing of a firearm into a Vermont state court building last year: I was glad to hear from her that she has learned and grown from that incident. Nevertheless, I am not persuaded by her explanation of how and why it happened. She seems to have had trouble knowing where her personal firearm was located—or should be located—at any given time. I remain skeptical of the assertion that her gun simply accidentally ended up in her “Mary Poppins” bag. For me, this calls her judgment into serious question. In the end, I am further alarmed that she managed to avoid prosecution for this offense, when so many of my similarly situated clients would likely be charged, convicted, and face fines, jail time, or probation.

For the reasons outlined above, I urge the Committee to vote against confirming Ms. Nolan to the Vermont Supreme Court. Thank you so much for your time and for asking some of the important questions you did during the hearing.

Laura Wilson, Esq.

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