

Mr Chair and Judiciary Committee,

Happy MLK Day.

Please do not confirm Christina Nolan and Mike Drescher to the Vermont Supreme Court.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Civil Rights Division and all other federal civil rights divisions have been decommissioned, gutted or politically repurposed. The DOJ has been weaponized. All funding that was designated for programs addressing disparate adverse impacts caused by systemic racism have been cut. Homeland Security Task Forces have been stood up in all states, including Vermont (DEA, FBI, ATF, US Marshals and ICE). An unchallenged executive order has directed military equipment into law enforcement agencies and is providing law enforcement legal protection and “indemnification” placing Black, other people of color and other marginalized communities at extreme risk while shielding law enforcement from accountability.

The Vermont supreme court stands at the gates and protects the walls that provide equal justice and protection to the people of Vermont. Our justices are called to rule in the essence of our state constitution and our values. These nominees have spent much of their careers in leadership positions within the U.S. Attorney’s Office, some of which has been under the current weaponized DOJ. At a time where our state constitution matters most, why are we contemplating appointing folks that have no foundation in litigating in Vermont courts to be supreme court justices? If Vermont trial court experience is a prerequisite for state justices, why would we ever appoint someone without the requisite experience? The supreme court justices have oversight responsibility for Vermont trial court judges' adherence to the state constitution, statutes and procedures. Do we want these two nominees to have 2-fifths (2/5) of the vote on appeals?

Importantly, don't both nominees' previous actions merit pause? Doesn't their knowledge that their actions were illegal disqualify them from sitting on the state supreme court? Most serious of these questions is how could these two nominees be put forward at a time of such national crises and how could Vermont remain so silent about it?

We need a supreme court that is qualified and driven to demand and expand a STATE equal protection legal doctrine that protects ALL Vermonters at a time such as this.

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Thank you!

<https://vtdigger.org/2026/01/14/senators-interrogate-vermont-supreme-court-nominee-about-prosecuting-on-behalf-of-trump/>

<https://vtdigger.org/2026/01/13/final-reading-christina-nolan-vermont-supreme-court-hopeful-explains-why-she-brought-a-gun-to-court/>

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