

Senator Hashim,

My name is Matt Greer. I am a multi-generational Vermonter--I grew up in Essex Town and graduated from UVM. I'm also a first-generation college graduate and first-generation lawyer. I worked as a law clerk for the late Peter W. Hall on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in Rutland and worked out-of-state, including as a public defender in Prince George's County, Maryland. I moved home a few years ago to serve my community, and in doing that I had the privilege to work with Mike Drescher. I strongly urge you to vote in favor of his confirmation to the Vermont Supreme Court.

Mike spent decades serving Vermonters and the country, and he always did so with the kind of integrity and honor that would put others holding positions of public trust to shame. I saw first-hand Mike's bone-deep commitment, not just to the rule of law and our system of justice, but to the greater American project. Mike's belief in the constitution is unshakeable, as is his faith in the rule of law. Lawyers are bound by their ethical duties to present arguments that are supported by the law and the facts, and to trust that the judge will make the right call. I know Mike believes that the system depends on people acting in good faith and ensuring that when the judge decides, that decision is followed. I have seen it. Mike's belief that the law can be a tool to protect individual rights and build a more just society would make him a great judge.

Some people have expressed (understandably) strong feelings about a couple of high-profile cases that Mike took on when he was thrust into the role of leading the U.S. Attorney's Office. When Rumeysa Ozturk and Mohsen Mahdawi filed lawsuits in Vermont to challenge being detained by ICE, Mike showed genuine leadership in taking those cases himself. It protected the more junior lawyers in the office from being the face of those cases or suffering the consequences. To be absolutely clear: Mike did not take a single affirmative step to try to detain or deport either Ozturk or Mahdawi--those decisions had already been made by DC. And after they filed lawsuits, doing nothing just wasn't an option. After all, there would have to be a government lawyer there--our judicial system demands it. Mike shielded the career public servants under him at a time of intense furor, and assumed the full responsibility of navigating those cases and the public reaction himself. What Mike did took guts.

Mike is the best kind of public servant. He is honest, kind, and cares deeply about the work and the people whose lives are affected by it. I have complete trust in him to act with integrity at all times. He is exactly the kind of person I want to see on the bench.

It would be deeply demoralizing, as a Vermonter who is dedicating my career to making the state a more just place, to see Mike's nomination to the Vermont Supreme Court fail. I firmly believe that good government requires good people--people who take seriously their oath to protect and defend the Constitution and are committed to the rule of law. I hope you will not turn your back on public servants who spend each day trying to do what is right.

Mike really does represent the best of us, and I hope you will confirm him.

Matt Greer
Richmond, VT