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PRESIDENT  
**RAKIM BROOKS**

CHAIR  
**PAULETTE MEYER**

June 17, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Durbin:

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing more than 150 public interest and civil rights organizations, I write to express our strong support for the confirmation of Judge Mary K. Lanthier to the United States District Court for the District of Vermont. An accomplished movement lawyer who has served as a supervising public defender in Vermont for over 17 years, Lanthier has a longstanding record of excellence, compassion, and commitment to public service. We are delighted to see a lawyer of Lanthier's caliber nominated to the federal bench and urge the Senate to move quickly to confirm her.

Lanthier's commitment to social justice and public service extends to her time at the Northeastern University School of Law, where she earned her J.D. in 1996. Her experience externing for the Vermont Supreme Court and the Vermont Office of the Defender General while at law school equipped her with early exposure to the intricacies of the justice system in action.

After law school, Lanthier completed a two-year clerkship at the Vermont Trial Court, in both the Chittenden County and Addison County Courts. Throughout this prestigious program, she served a range of judges across the court's civil and criminal law divisions, gaining invaluable insight into the trial process and courtroom management in a variety of settings. Following her clerkship, Lanthier worked as an associate at Vermont firm Keiner & Dumont, where she gained expertise in family law, criminal law, and workers' compensation.

Since 2007, Lanthier has served as the Supervising Attorney at the Rutland County Public Defender's Office, where she represents individuals unable to afford counsel during all stages of the trial process. In this leadership role, Lanthier also oversees a team of attorneys and staff, manages her office's daily operations, and serves as the liaison between her office and stakeholders in the criminal justice system. A celebrated movement lawyer, Lanthier's stellar career and experience as a supervising public defender will bolster the professional diversity of the federal judiciary, bringing underrepresented expertise to the bench.

Alongside her accomplished career, Lanthier has shown a remarkable dedication to enhancing the administration of justice by ensuring that the criminal justice system works for all. This is demonstrated by her diligent work in developing fair and efficient courtroom policies and procedures, which she carries out in collaboration with the courts and other actors in the justice system. She is an active member of the Vermont Supreme Court's Criminal Panel of the Committee on the Model Jury Instructions and its Advisory Committee on the Rules of Criminal Procedure. She also demonstrated a profound commitment to the Vermont legal community, sitting on numerous committees and boards dedicated to the development of young lawyers and the administration of justice throughout the state.

Lanthier's professionalism and aptitude to serve on the federal judiciary is further evidenced by the awards bestowed on her in recognition of her excellence and service to date. This includes her receipt of the 2023 President's Award from the Vermont Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and her recognition as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 2018.

Throughout her tenure as a supervising public defender, Lanthier has been praised for her compassion, strong leadership, and adherence to the highest ethical standards, qualities which equip her well to serve on the federal judiciary. Lanthier's polished record as a public defender ensures that she will treat everyone in her courtroom with the utmost respect and dignity, therefore making a great addition to the U.S. District Court in Vermont. It is with great enthusiasm that AFJ endorses Mary K. Lanthier.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rakim H.D. Brooks".

Rakim Brooks  
President, Alliance for Justice