



Eleven Dupont Circle NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036  
[www.afj.org](http://www.afj.org) | 202-822-6070

Field Offices  
Dallas | Houston | Los Angeles |  
San Francisco

PRESIDENT

**Rachel Rossi**

CHAIR

**Madeline deLone**

March 16, 2026

Senator Charles Grassley  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Richard Durbin  
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin,

On behalf of Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing nearly 140 public interest and civil rights organizations, I write to express our strong opposition to the nomination of Katie Lane to the United States District Court for the District of Montana. Lane's lack of experience, poor temperament, and public sanction from a federal judge raise profound concerns. Throughout her short career, Lane demonstrated an unending commitment to undermining basic rights in the pursuit of far-right ideology. Such qualities should automatically preclude her from a lifetime appointment to the federal judiciary and we urge you to oppose Lane's nomination.

Lane's legal experience falls far short of the minimum amount recommended by the American Bar Association. The ABA recommends that federal judicial nominees have at least 12 years of practice experience as well as "substantial courtroom and trial experience as a lawyer or trial judge" in order to receive a "well qualified" rating. In contrast, Lane has only practiced law for nine years and does not have the breadth or length of legal experience necessary to manage a federal courtroom. Her lack of experience for such a critical role in the federal judicial ecosystem — often considered the pinnacle role after decades of practice — can potentially shortchange justice for thousands of everyday Montanans. People should not be forced to gamble their livelihoods, safety, and rights by entrusting their fates to an inexperienced judge when they appear in federal court.

Even more troublingly, Lane has also been publicly sanctioned for disrespecting the very institution she is now nominated to represent and uphold. In 2023, Montana District Court Judge Michael Moses found it necessary to issue a rare public rebuke of her behavior. Moses called out the State of Montana, at the time led by Lane, for disobeying court orders and misrepresenting facts in several court filings. Moses found the behavior so egregious and intentional that he ordered the government to pay the opposing party's attorneys' fees. In his order, he noted that this rare sanction was appropriate because Lane showed "flagrant disregard" for the court and "repeatedly disobeyed a lawful order...showing their contempt for this judicial body and the judicial system as a whole."

Even though she has such limited experience, Lane’s work as a corporate lawyer, deputy solicitor general, and then as counsel for the Republican National Committee can best be described as destructive. Lane has shown a consistent hostility towards fundamental rights across a wide range of issue areas: She has brought litigation intended to destroy voting rights, reduce abortion access, attack diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives at universities and in fellowships, and insisted upon imposing archaic punishments on the LGBTQ+ population. Lane has proven she lacks the compassion, temperament, respect, and legal acuity to adequately serve a lifetime role as a federal judge. She should not be “awarded” with this role based solely on her loyalty to Trump.

For these reasons, Alliance for Justice strongly opposes the confirmation of Katie Lane to the United States District Court of the District of Montana. The federal judiciary demands judges who are qualified, prepared, and show a steadfast commitment to fairness, equality, and the Constitution. Lane’s record demonstrates that she is unfit and unqualified for the federal judiciary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Rossi".

Rachel Rossi  
President, Alliance for Justice