

September 15, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chairman
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Office #224 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Rachael Rollins for United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. I urge the Committee to confirm her for this position.

I have a somewhat unusual perspective on Rachael's background and qualifications. I served as U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts from 1993-2001, so I fully understand the importance of the position and the role it plays in the law enforcement community. I appreciate the necessity for community-based strategies which focus on violent offenders, and which carefully and selectively use the enormous power of federal law enforcement. The position requires clear goals, high standards, leadership, and good judgment.

While no doubt many will laud Rachael's ability to develop and implement these approaches as the District Attorney of Suffolk County, as I do, I also have the benefit of working with her even before she assumed that role.

Rachael was an associate in the law firm of Bingham, which is where I went as partner after leaving the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2001. She assisted me in several matters that required careful attention to detail and an ability to gain the confidence of clients. I relied on her sound judgment and thoroughness, and I was not disappointed. Even then, early in her legal career, you could see that she was thoughtful, hardworking, and articulate.

I also knew that she had a thirst for public service. So, I was not surprised that after her law firm experience, she held a series of important jobs in the public sector, including working at the U.S. Attorney's Office and now, of course, as DA in Suffolk County.

I too had considerable experience in the public sector before becoming U.S. Attorney and it helped me work with the variety of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as community-based organizations. Rachael has been in the real world and has a deep understanding of how to get things done.

If confirmed, Rachael will inherit an excellent office, filled with dedicated prosecutors. But she can make it better. She has the skills and leadership ability to focus on pressing problems in Massachusetts, ranging from violent crime to civil rights to white collar crime. I respectfully urge that Rachael Rollins be confirmed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Donald K. Stern". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Donald K. Stern