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Bob Paolini

Via email: bob@bobpaolini.com

To The Members of the Joint Committee on Judicial Retention- Magistrate Joseph Lorman

Dear Committee Members:

I have been asked to comment concerning the retention of Magistrate Lorman who is currently under review. By way of background, I was admitted to practice on October 1, 1974 and approximately 2/3rds of my legal work concerns family matters. That, of course, includes establishing child support, child support modifications, child support enforcement and other issues incident to child support. As a result, I have appeared in Magistrate Lorman's court room on frequent occasions. In addition, in situations where an agreement has been reached in advance of the court proceeding, I have prepared child support orders for Magistrate Lorman's review and signature which he performs with a critical eye. As a result of the foregoing, I feel confident that I can assess and address issues which may be significant to the committee.

To start, Magistrate Lorman from his previous experience working for the Office of Child Support has a thorough grasp and understanding of family law and the rules of evidence pertaining to child support. He is not hesitant to correct an attorney from the bench if they mis-cite a rule or err in the applicability of a rule. His knowledge gives a litigant confidence that he is accurately following the law and procedure.

Although the pandemic has changed this over the last year, prior to that I would be in the court room where Magistrate Lorman was presiding waiting for my case to be called. He is respectful to litigants, including pro se litigants and willingly offers an explanation of what he can and cannot do based on what the litigants are seeking from the court. He is direct, but never demeaning. He gives the litigants an opportunity to speak and the opposing pro se litigant an opportunity to respond. I have never seen him be anything but respectful to litigants, even those who may not be displaying the best demeanor themselves.

The same also applies to attorneys. Magistrate Lorman tries to narrow the issues to avoid protracted litigation. He does so by addressing the attorneys before the hearing commences to see what is or is not at issue. The court room is always run smoothly and appropriately.

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There were a number of applicants for the Magistrate's position when it opened. It happens that I wrote a letter of endorsement for an applicant other than Magistrate Lorman. Based upon Magistrate Lorman's background with the Office of Child Support, I had some concerns as to whether his views might be weighted toward Office of Child Support litigants as a result. I am happy to report that having been in Magistrate Lorman's court and litigated many matters before him, any misgivings I had in that regard were unfounded. Magistrate Lorman, in my eyes, has proven himself to be an impartial and fair tribunal. Everyone has their opportunity to present their case and Magistrate Lorman's decisions are, in my opinion, thorough, fair and considered when issued.

Accordingly, I see no reason why Magistrate Lorman should not be retained in his current Magistrate's position.

Best regards,



Eugene Rakow, Esq.