

To: The Utah Senate Judicial Confirmation committee

Jerry Howe at: jdhowe@le.utah.gov

Re: Support for Governor Herbert's appointment of Margaret Plane to the Utah Court of Appeals

Date: December 1, 2020

Distinguished Committee Members:

I write to you in support of Governor Herbert's appointment of Margaret Plane to the Utah Court of Appeals.

I write in my individual capacity. My name is Tracey M. Watson. My telephone number is: 801-918-9301. My mailing address is: 1397 S Blair St., Apt 1, Salt Lake City, UT 84115. I am an attorney in good standing with the Utah State Bar (Utah Bar No. 09881).

The Gregorian calendar year 2020, is filled with challenges. The appointment of Margaret Plane to the Utah Court of Appeals should not be another challenge; it should be a celebration and a sign of good things to come. Please recommend Margaret Plane without reservation to the full Senate.

I have known Margaret for about 20 years. We met my first year of law school, at the SJ Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah. Margaret was assigned as my mentor. It is no surprise why many years later she was awarded the Women Lawyers of Utah's first Mentor of the Year Award. Margaret is generous with her talents, compassionate with the law and the development of good attorneys, patient, and she believes in paying it forward.

I will not reiterate her pedigree or distinguished professional experience. Rather, I wish to focus on what makes me confident this Committee can forward this appointment without reservation.

Following law school, Margaret had the distinguished opportunity to clerk for Judge Pamela T. Greenwood. Margaret learned what appellate judges need to do and how to do that work. I submit, without reservation, she will dedicate herself to make Judge Greenwood proud of the work she will do serving on the Court of Appeals.

Margaret is a friend; she is loyal; she is a leader and a team player. Margaret and I are too busy to do many social activities together; but I know if I emailed her or called her with a question, a need, a request; she would respond immediately (so long as it was appropriate, ethical, reasonable, etc.). I have a background in basketball, as a player at a Division III school and later as a coach (before I chose the legal path) and I have always been in awe of the legal team Margaret assembled as the city attorney in Salt Lake City. Margaret leads by example but also is not afraid to recognize and support other's strengths.

Margaret has the very litigation experience and political savvy to make a great appellate attorney. Margaret can easily separate legal issue from political issues, not just in the hypothetical but in the everyday, real world. She has litigation experience, management experience, understands the standard of review, the value of precedence, and most importantly how to write an articulate, well-reasoned, legal decision that will not just decide the issue before the Court but will help litigators focus on important issues in future decisions on the matter.

Most importantly, Margaret is real. Yes, she has the background, the pedigree, the legal experience; but what her colleagues will value most is that she is real, human, caring, smart, funny, fun, hardworking, articulate, deliberate, transparent, honest, authentic and dedicated.

The Governor's appointment of Margaret Plane to the Utah Court of Appeals is a solid appointment. Please consider – without reservation - recommending this appointment to the full Senate.

Sincerely,



Tracey M. Watson