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April 20, 2010

Judiciary Committee Chairmen
Hon. Andrew McDonald
Hon. Michael Lawlor
and
Members of the Judiciary Committee
General Assembly
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Nomination of Jane Brandfon Emons as a Superior Court Judge

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing this at the request of Ms. Jane Emons who has been nominated by the Governor to serve as a Superior Court Judge.

My knowledge of Ms Emons' abilities extends from 1977, when we were both appointed by then Chief Court Administrator Hon. John Cotter to serve one year appointments as Superior Court law clerks. We were both assigned to the New Haven courthouse. Subsequently, I have witnessed her broad professional development, first as an Assistant State's Attorney under New Haven State's Attorney Arnold Markle, where she dutifully handled an increasingly responsible caseload, involving every facet of criminal prosecution. For more than a decade she tried many cases to verdict, working alongside victims, court personnel, detectives, investigators and the bench. She garnered both the respect and admiration of her colleagues and the criminal defense bar.

Ms. Emons would take a sabbatical from the law to raise her family and to return to the family automobile business. This passage in her life impressed her, reminding her of the rigors of the private sector; the relationship of a company to its employees, customers and suppliers, and the constraints of running a closely-held business and meeting a payroll.

She would return to the law in 1996, when Ms. Emons was appointed as an Assistant Attorney General and assigned to the Employment Rights Department of the office. In that capacity, Ms. Emons has marshaled her considerable energies to handle every facet of major civil litigation involving various state agencies. During this time she has engaged in both trial and appellate work before our state and federal courts.

Throughout this remarkable and diverse career she has maintained a steady, cheerful and pleasant demeanor. She has been a delight to work with as a colleague, never losing her sense of humor and revealing necessary levity when confronting life's tribulations.

Her compassion, facile-mind and breadth of legal knowledge are remarkable traits, not routinely possessed, yet necessary qualities for the bench. She will be a credit to our court system and I am delighted to recommend her without reservation.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding this letter of support.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Clifford", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas P. Clifford, III
Assistant Attorney General

TPC/gr