

WIGGIN AND DANA

*Counsellors at Law*

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April 19, 2010

Andrew J. McDonald, Co-Chairman  
Michael P. Lawlor, Co-Chairman  
Members of the Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 2500  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Re: Nomination of John A. Danaher III to the Superior Court**

Dear Chairmen and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Please accept this letter as an unqualified endorsement of John A. Danaher III's nomination to become a Judge of the Superior Court of the State of Connecticut. John Danaher's intellectual acumen, breadth of legal experience, leadership qualities, irreproachable integrity in both his professional and personal life, and stellar reputation in the legal community make him uniquely qualified to become a Superior Court Judge of our state.

I have known John Danaher both professionally and personally for approximately 23 years and feel that I am well-qualified to comment on John's professional and personal qualities. John and I served together in the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut for almost 20 years and we have remained close since we both left that office. John served as the Assistant In-Charge of the Hartford Office of the U.S. Attorney's Office while I was the Assistant In-Charge of the Bridgeport Office. John thereafter became the Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney and was appointed to be the Deputy U.S. Attorney. When John was appointed as Deputy, I was appointed to become the Chief of the Criminal Division. When U.S. Attorney Stephen Robinson became a District Court Judge, John became the Acting United States Attorney and I continued under John's leadership as the Chief of the Criminal Division, a position I continued to hold under John's successor. I left the U.S. Attorney's Office in September 2007 and am now a partner in the law firm of Wiggin and Dana. Thus, I have had many opportunities to experience and appreciate both John's outstanding legal abilities and the personal qualities that make him not only an outstanding lawyer but also the consummate gentleman.

You are no doubt familiar with the breadth of John Danaher's background and legal experience including the fact that before practicing law, John was a science and English teacher. Upon graduation from law school, John was fortunate enough to secure a coveted judicial clerkship with the late T. Emmet Clarie. Judge Clarie was a revered figure in the federal judiciary and served as a mentor to many of his colleagues on the District Court bench and, no doubt, to the young lawyers who were fortunate enough to apprentice as his judicial law clerks. Following his clerkship, John became an associate at the prestigious firm then known as Day Berry and Howard, now known as Day Pitney. After several years gaining valuable civil litigation

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experience, John was fortunate enough to become an Assistant United States Attorney and he enjoyed a meteoric rise in that office, eventually leading the office as United States Attorney. John left the United States Attorney's Office in 2007 to continue in public service as the Commissioner of Public Safety.

During our tenure together in the United States Attorney's office, John had a reputation as a legal scholar with an encyclopedic knowledge of the law. Colleagues frequently turned to John for his advice and counsel on particularly thorny legal issues. It was John's keen legal mind that often involved John in many of the U.S. Attorney's Offices most complicated and high profile cases. Indeed, John played a critical role in one of this Country's first "terrorism" investigations and trials; he was a member of the team that investigated and prosecuted Los Macheteros. John personally tried many cases and has a great appreciation for trial work. John also briefed and argued many cases in the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. It is probably safe to say that John has more appellate experience than the vast majority of practicing lawyers. In addition to the many high-profile cases that John investigated and tried, he was extremely generous with his time in counseling and advising others. I felt fortunate to be able to turn to John not only for his legal counsel but also for his advice on matters of administration. John was known for his organizational skills and for his sensitivity to and appreciation of his colleagues and the staff with whom he worked.

John assumed the mantle of leadership of the United States Attorney's Office during an extremely busy and difficult period. During his tenure as United States Attorney there were at least three high-profile public corruption cases either ongoing or under investigation. There were aggressive initiatives to quell violent crime in Connecticut's urban centers, efforts to address white-collar and corporate fraud, and there were the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Anthrax poisoning of Otilie Lundgren in Oxford, Connecticut. John led the Office with great skill and dedication. Indeed, John's tenure as United States Attorney was marked by both extremely high productivity and extremely high esprit de corps.

While I do not have similar first hand knowledge, it seems that John has brought many of his distinguishing characteristics to bear as Commissioner of Public Safety. I am aware that before John became Commissioner there were almost daily stories about labor and employment issues and stories of alleged dysfunction at the State Police and its crime laboratory. Those same stories no longer appear and acquaintances at the State Police inform me that, under John's leadership, the Division of Public Safety has been turned around and is now held up as an example to peer organizations.

John is known as a man of great integrity in both his professional and personal life. He is devoted to his wife, his four children and his community. He cares deeply about people and

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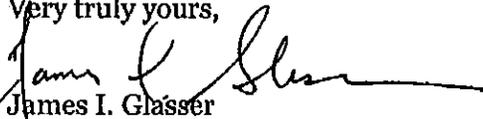
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shows respect for each and every person with whom he comes into contact. John loves the law and has dedicated a good portion of his life ensuring that the law is administered fairly. He is not timid about making decisions; although in my experience, each of his decisions is well-considered. John Danaher is precisely the person the citizens of Connecticut want to serve as a Superior Court Judge. He will both engender respect and promote respect for the law.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can offer any further insights into John Danaher.

Very truly yours,



James I. Glasser

JIG: