

**PHILIP RUSSELL, L.L.C.**  
**ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW**  
(203) 661-4200

PHILIP RUSSELL \* \*\*  
CATHERINE R. KEENAN \*\*  
STEPHEN J. DELEO +

66 FIELD POINT ROAD  
P.O. BOX 1437  
GREENWICH, CT 06836

of counsel  
HAROLD H. DEAN

FAX  
(203) 661-3666  
www.greenwichlegal.com

\* BOARD CERTIFIED  
CRIMINAL TRIAL ADVOCACY  
NATIONAL BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCACY  
+ MEMBER CONNECTICUT BAR  
\*\* MEMBER CONNECTICUT AND NEW YORK BAR

April 12, 2016

***VIA EMAIL: William.Tong@cga.ct.gov***

Representative William Tong  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

***VIA EMAIL: Dan.Fox@cga.ct.gov***

Representative Daniel J. Fox  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

***VIA EMAIL: Bruce.Morris@cga.ct.gov***

Representative Bruce Morris  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

***VIA EMAIL: Caroline.Simmons@cga.ct.gov***

Representative Caroline Simmons  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

***VIA EMAIL: John.Shaban@cga.ct.gov***

Representative John T. Shaban  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Reappointment of Superior Court Judge Barbara Brazzel-Massaró.

Dear Judiciary Committee Members:

I write to you today to register with you my unqualified endorsement for the reappointment of Superior Court Judge Barbara Brazzel-Massaró.

First, a brief word about my qualifications: I have spent my career trying cases, both criminal and civil. Prior to joining Ivey Barnum & O'Mara in 1988, I was an Assistant District Attorney in Bronx County for four years. Before that, I worked at a criminal law firm in Brooklyn, NY, my home town. Since 1992, I have managed my own three-lawyer litigation firm specializing in criminal defense and civil claims. I have argued cases and tried jury trials in the federal and state courts of Connecticut and New York, and I have argued appeals before our Supreme and Appellate Court as well as the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

PHILIP RUSSELL, L.L.C.

Page Two.

I am not personal friends with Judge Brazzel-Massaró, nor are we even social acquaintances. My only knowledge of this Judge is limited to my encounters with her when she was an attorney in the office of the Bridgeport Corporation Counsel's office, and appearing before her more recently in criminal and civil trials and hearings when Judge Brazzel-Massaró was assigned to the Stamford courthouse.

I tried a both criminal case and a civil case to juries before Judge Brazzel-Massaró. Each case was hotly contested. Both cases raised complex legal issues. Oddly enough, both cases involved profoundly disabled parties. In both cases I was opposite capable, passionate attorneys. Judge Brazzel-Massaró did a fantastic job keeping the jury involved and invested, and was attentive to their needs. The disabilities of the litigants were accommodated graciously and effortlessly. The trials moved briskly, despite the wordiness and contentiousness of the attorneys (your present correspondent included). Throughout the fray, Judge Brazzel-Massaró kept a clear eye on justice, and all parties in both cases felt they had received a fair and efficient hearing. The Connecticut Supreme Court, in reviewing the Court's rulings on appeal of the civil claim, had nothing but high praise for the manner in which this Judge dealt with novel and difficult legal issues which arose during the trial. (K v M, No. 19793, decided June 10, 2014)

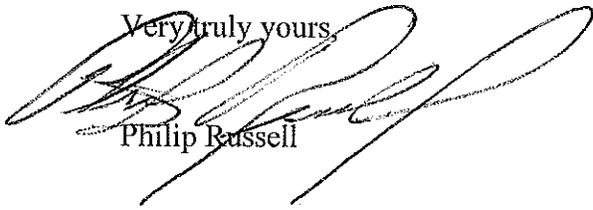
I first met Judge Brazzel-Massaró in 1994, when she successfully defended a wrongful arrest case I filed against her employer, the City of Bridgeport and its Police Department. In that case, then Attorney Brazzel-Massaró was prepared, organized, and persuasive. She put on a strong case, she was persuasive with the jury, she knew the law, and won the case. Her witnesses were well prepped, and she was prompt, courteous, honest and capable throughout. A less capable lawyer would not have won that case.

During her time in Stamford, Judge Brazzel Massaró also had the unenviable duty of presiding over a civil claim that arose between John Michael Farren, a former White House attorney, and his wife arising from a nasty assault Mr. Farren perpetrated on her in their New Canaan home. Mr. Farren represented himself. His method of defense would test the patience of any Superior Court Judge. As the hearing, the motions, the delays, and the endless arguments droned on, Judge Brazzel-Massaró kept the proceedings civil and productive. She never, -- not for a moment -- lost her calm judicial demeanor, and despite the intense pressure brought on by constant media coverage, "hot button" domestic violence issues, and intense emotions, never let the case degenerate into anything other than an orderly evidentiary proceeding under her complete control.

In sum, we are lucky to have Judge Brazzel-Massaró on the bench. I hope your Committee reappoints her, and I hope this letter is helpful to that process.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

  
Philip Russell

PR/dm