

April 14, 2016

Senator Eric D. Coleman
Representative William Tong
State of Connecticut
Joint Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Reappointment of Superior Court Judge Barbara Brazzel-Massaró

Dear Senator Coleman and Representative Tong:

I am writing in support of the reappointment of Judge Brazzel-Massaró as a Judge of the Superior Court. As indicated below, I believe she is an outstanding jurist with excellent judgment, who treats the parties fairly and possesses a strong work ethic.

I am a partner in the Greenwich, Connecticut law firm of Whitman Breed Abbott & Morgan LLC, and have practiced civil litigation with the firm and its predecessors for more than thirty years. The focus of my practice is commercial litigation, and I represent clients on a regular basis in civil cases pending in the Connecticut Superior Court (often on the Complex Litigation Docket).

My most significant contact with Judge Brazzel-Massaró occurred during the 2011-2012 time frame, while she presided over the Complex Litigation Docket in Stamford. I represented an asset management firm and its founder/majority shareholder, who were the subject of claims by a minority shareholder (and former officer) relating to an alleged profit-sharing agreement. The issues were complex and the amount in controversy was substantial (in excess of \$20 million). The case was aggressively litigated by both sides, including a prejudgment remedy hearing that took approximately four days.

Judge Brazzel-Massaró's handling of the case, including the evidentiary hearing on plaintiff's application for prejudgment remedy, was masterful. She was even-handed in her approach, and professional and courteous in her demeanor to counsel, the parties and witnesses. She was knowledgeable and insightful with respect to the applicable law. She was respectful to the parties and the judicial process, and required the parties to treat the Court and each other with respect. She also demonstrated a willingness to "roll up her sleeves" and provide the oversight, intervention and attention that the case demanded. In short, she was professional in every respect, and a pleasure to appear before.

I have also attended bar functions at which Judge Brazzel-Massaró was the featured speaker, and in each instance she was insightful, professional and approachable.

WHITMAN BREED ABBOTT & MORGAN LLC

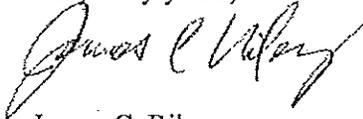
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I support Judge Brazzel-Massaró's reappointment without reservation. She is a credit to our profession and the bar of this State.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James C. Riley".

James C. Riley
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