



July 12, 2021

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Committee Members:

On behalf of our 1.5 million supporters nationwide, People For the American Way enthusiastically supports the nomination of Veronica Rossman to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. She is an excellent choice who will help advance justice and inspire confidence in the courts.

After a clerkship at the Nevada Supreme Court, Rossman spent several years in private practice, working in various areas of civil law. She also gained experience as a law professor teaching civil procedure and conflict of laws, and a staff attorney for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reviewing civil cases on appeal, drafting proposed dispositions, and presenting findings and recommendations to three-judge oral screening panels.

And for the past 11 years—the bulk of her professional career—she has dedicated herself to serving the highest ideals of the Constitution through her work in Colorado as a Tenth Circuit appellate federal public defender. She has personally handled and supervised criminal appellate matters arising out of every judicial district in the Tenth Circuit and involving a wide range of substantive and procedural federal criminal law.

Public defenders play a vital and underappreciated role in protecting freedom, not only of poor people accused of crime but also of all people in the United States. We have given our government the power to take people away from their homes, imprison them, and even execute them. That power is a weighty one and potentially subject to abuse. So if our government is going to use that power against someone, it must do so in a way that complies with the safeguards set forth in the Bill of Rights. That basic tenet of the United States Constitution is vital to protecting all of us. Rossman's work defending indigent people accused of crimes has also given her insight into how the system works in real life and can fail to serve justice—insight that circuit court panels could use to make more informed decisions.

She also brings the experience of being part of a family of refugees who lived under state-sanctioned oppression. She was born in Moscow in 1972 to a Jewish family that suffered under that country's anti-Semitism, where jobs and opportunities were routinely denied to those who lived out their faith as Jews. For many years before the fall of the USSR, American foreign policy put great emphasis on pressuring the Soviet government to allow more Jews to emigrate. She came to America as a child and has made a career of ensuring that the rights guaranteed by

the United States Constitution are not merely words on paper, but genuine legal protections for everyone.

Rossman's nomination has extensive support in the Colorado legal community, including those who know her well and have worked closest with her over the years. This is reflected in an enthusiastic letter of support to the Judiciary Committee from more than 90 civil lawyers, in-house counsel, former prosecutors, criminal defense lawyers, public interest lawyers, former government attorneys, large firm practitioners, small town lawyers, and academics. Rossman's colleagues praise her "unique combination of substantial intellect, work ethic, life and professional experiences," noting that "there is wide agreement that she will bring wisdom and balance to the court."

Indeed, she would be the only judge on the Tenth Circuit with experience as a federal defender. She would bring the court priceless insight into how the criminal justice works in real life, enabling the panels she serves on to more effectively achieve justice and fairness.

Veronica Rossman is exactly the kind of judge needed on our federal courts, and we urge the Senate to confirm her swiftly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marge Baker".

Marge Baker  
Executive Vice President