April 8, 2022

The Honorable Anne Carney, Senate Chair
The Honorable Thomas Harnett, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Dear Senator Carney and Representative Harnett:

On behalf of the Maine State Bar Association and its members, I am pleased to inform you that the Association fully supports the nomination of Justice Rick E. Lawrence as Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

The MSBA sends surveys to all practicing lawyers in Maine to evaluate trial court judges in the sixth year of every judge's term. These evaluations are used to determine the Association’s support of or opposition to the nomination of a judge and, in turn, to make recommendations on the nomination to the Governor and the Judiciary Committee.

The results of Justice Lawrence’s 2020 evaluation show that Maine attorneys find him to be one of the best judges in the State of Maine. They describe him as highly intelligent, knowledgeable of law and procedure, and professional in his dealings with attorneys and clients alike. Lawyers who appear before Judge Lawrence consider him fair, compassionate, and kind to all who appear before him. He is commended for his ability to communicate and his well-reasoned decisions. Judge Lawrence has earned the support and respect of Maine lawyers for these traits as well as his deep experience, civility, and excellent courtroom management. In the course of Judge Lawrence’s career as a private practitioner and over two decades as a District Court Judge, he has demonstrated his support of the legal community, access to justice, and the rule of law in Maine, and Maine citizens will benefit from his service on the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

The Maine State Bar Association urges the Judiciary Committee to give its unanimous support to the nomination of Justice Rick E. Lawrence as Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

Sincerely,

Frank H. Bishop, Jr.
President