June 1, 2021

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 Valerie Stanfill as Chief 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 Stanfill’s 2013 evaluation show that Maine attorneys find her to be a strong, decisive, and confident judge. They describe her as intelligent, knowledgeable of law and procedure, and professional in her dealings with attorneys and clients alike. Lawyers who appear before Justice Stanfill consider her fair, efficient, always well-prepared, and prompt in issuing her decisions. She has earned the respect of Maine lawyers for her high standards for work and conduct and her excellent courtroom management. These traits have earned her the support and respect of MSBA members, and Maine citizens will benefit from her service as the next Chief Justice.

Additionally, Justice Stanfill is a long-time supporter and member of the MSBA. She served as co-chair of the Women’s Law Section in 2005 and 2006, and as faculty on numerous CLE programs throughout the years. Through Justice Stanfill’s involvement in the MSBA over the course of her career, she has demonstrated her support of the legal community, access to justice, and the rule of law in Maine.

The Maine State Bar Association urges the Judiciary Committee to give its unanimous support to the nomination of Justice Valerie Stanfill as Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

Sincerely,

Kelly McDonald
President