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STATE OF MAINE
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Augusta, Maine

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

CONFIRMATION HEARING OF:
Catherine R. Connors, Esq.
January 30, 2020
3:53:40 - 4:56:40

Tammy Smith, Court Reporter
THE REPORTING GROUP
P.O. Box 404
Springvale, Maine 04083
(207) 281-4230
thereportinggroupmaine@gmail.com

1 TRANSCRIPT OF AUDIO FILE

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3 THE CHAIR: Welcome. I apologize for the
4 procedural delays. This is a public hearing
5 of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
6 for the purpose of considering the nomination
7 by the governor of Ms. Catherine Connors of
8 Kennebunk for appointment as a Supreme
9 Judicial Court associate justice.

10 Under the law and the joint rules of the
11 Maine Legislature, this committee is required
12 to hold a public hearing to recommend
13 confirmation or denial of the nominee by a
14 majority vote of the committee of the
15 committee members present and voting. As
16 chairs of the committee, we will then send
17 written notice of the committee's
18 recommendations to the senate president.

19 The committee will hear testimony from
20 and have an opportunity to question the
21 governor or her representative, the nominee,
22 and any other persons present who wish to
23 speak for or against the nomination.

24 Pursuant to Title 3 of the Maine Statute,
25 it requires there be an affirmative motion to

1 recommend confirmation of the nominee.

2 The chair now recognizes the
3 representative from Kennebunk,
4 Representative Babbidge, for the purpose of
5 making such a nom- -- such a motion.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BABBIDGE: Thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the
8 Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
9 recommend confirmation of Ms. Catherine R.
10 Connors, Esq., of Kennebunk for appointment as
11 Supreme Judicial Court justice.

12 THE CHAIR: Thank you,
13 Representative Babbidge.

14 A copy of the statutory requirements for
15 the position is available at the roster. The
16 chair now recognizes Derek Langhauser, who
17 represents legal counsel to Governor Mills,
18 for purposes of making a statement regarding
19 this nomination.

20 MR. LANGHAUSER: Good afternoon,
21 Mr. Chairman, Madam Chair, and members of the
22 committee. I'm here to present the third and
23 final of our three nominees today.

24 I am Derek Langhauser. I'm the chief
25 legal counsel to the governor, and I'm here

1 today to present Attorney Catherine R. Connors
2 as the governor's nominee for appointment as
3 an associate justice of the Maine Supreme
4 Judicial Court.

5 Catherine Connors has practiced law
6 for 34 years. She's an appellate lawyer
7 handling civil and criminal litigation matters
8 in federal and state courts as well as
9 petitions for review of administrative
10 decisions. She has argued more than 100
11 appeals, primarily in the Maine Supreme
12 Judicial Court, to which she is nominated
13 today, and the United States Courts of
14 Appeals. She argues appeals not only for
15 clients at her firm, but for lawyers of
16 clients from other firms, as well, who seek
17 her out for her ability and expertise.
18 Ms. Connors has long been consistently
19 recognized by the bench and bar alike as one
20 of the most capable, if not the most capable,
21 appellate attorneys in Maine.

22 Retired Justice Dan Wathen, who served on
23 our state's Supreme Court for 20 years as both
24 an associate and chief justice, who was an
25 appointee of Democratic, Republican, and

1 Independent governors, is here today to
2 explain why he and so many other experienced
3 judges and lawyers hold Ms. Connors in such
4 high regard.

5 Ms. Connors has the highest peer-driven
6 professional rating that a practicing lawyer
7 in the United States can obtain. She's an
8 elected fellow and board member of the
9 American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, one of
10 the most prestigious law associations in the
11 nation. She has served on the United
12 States -- the United States First Circuit
13 Court of Appeals Advisory Committee on Rules,
14 the Maine Board of Bar Exam Examiners, and she
15 is a fellow of the Maine Justice Foundation.

16 Because her reputation extends well
17 beyond Maine, Ms. Connors is admitted to
18 practice law in the United States Supreme
19 Court, the United States District Court, the
20 United States District Court for the District
21 of Columbia, and the United States Courts of
22 Appeals for the First, Second, Third, Fifth,
23 and Sixth Circuits, which is approximately one
24 half of the federal courts -- federal
25 appellate courts in the nation.

1 Ms. Connors graduated from Northwestern
2 University School of Law with high academic
3 honors, and likewise, she graduated magna cum
4 laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Northwestern
5 University as an undergraduate.

6 Her work as an appellate attorney is in
7 nearly every respect that of an appellate
8 judge. Like an appellate judge, she, too,
9 takes her cases as they come to her after
10 other lawyers have accepted the clients,
11 chosen the parties, and framed the dispute.
12 She, too, is exposed to and often required to
13 master, in short order, substantially diverse
14 subjects of law that are often complex and
15 frequently not settled. She, too, must have
16 the analytic -- analytical ability to identify
17 quickly the predominate material facts and
18 arguments at issue, and she, too, needs to
19 commit her rationale to clear, concise, and
20 complete writing so that others, parties,
21 judges, and lawyers alike, can understand and
22 be persuaded.

23 As Ms. Connors can explain better than I,
24 she has over 30 years of -- 34 years of
25 practice working with an unusually wide array

1 of legal subjects. They include civil,
2 criminal, administrative, corporate, and
3 individual rights law. I randomly selected
4 and read opinions or briefs from 58 reported
5 cases that she worked on in order to assess
6 the range, complexity, and quality of her
7 work, and as a former law clerk myself to two
8 justices on the state Supreme Court, a 30-year
9 student of the Court's opinion, and one whose
10 own jobs have required me to change subjects
11 both quickly and broadly, even I was struck by
12 the breadth of her subject matter, exposure,
13 and experience.

14 Her clients have been equally diverse.
15 For entities, they've included corporations,
16 non-profits, civil liberties groups, state
17 agencies, and usually complex organizations,
18 such as the American Bar Association's Central
19 European and Eurasian Law Initiative, the
20 United States Aid to International
21 Development, and the World Bank.

22 For individuals, her clients have
23 included guardians ad litem, a prisoner in
24 need of mental health treatment, an elementary
25 school student in need of air-quality

1 protection, criminal defendants, an indigent
2 applicant for DHHS benefits, and service
3 workers in need of protection from harassment
4 at work. Similarly, when she is not
5 practicing law, Ms. Connors tends to the needs
6 of her extended family and donates her time
7 and efforts to support the local Animal
8 Welfare Society.

9 All appellate courts are purposefully
10 designed to have more than one judge, from
11 panels of three in the federal appeals courts
12 to seven in the Maine Supreme Court to nine in
13 the United States Supreme Court. The reason
14 for this is clear, to have professional and
15 personal diversity that brings different
16 viewpoints from those different experiences.
17 This is what a lawyer coming from private
18 practice can bring to the current court,
19 which, before the vacancies that we are
20 addressing here today, had seven former trial
21 judges comprising the bench.

22 In the 44 years since law school Dean Ed
23 Godfrey's appointment to the law court in
24 1978, 7 attorneys had been directly appointed
25 by governors to the law court. These

1 appointments -- these appointments, as I said,
2 came at the hand of four different governor's
3 over that time. If confirmed, Ms. Connors
4 would be the eighth such appointee, and she
5 will bring the valuable perspective of her
6 private practice to the collective
7 deliberative process of the trial judges who
8 she will join on that court.

9 Retired Associate Justice Warren Silver,
10 the last such appointee, who was selected by
11 Governor Baldacci in 2005, has written a
12 statement supporting Ms. Connor's nomination
13 that, as with Justice Horton, Chief
14 Justice Wathen will read on Justice Silver's
15 behalf.

16 Finally, it bears noting that if
17 confirmed, Ms. Connors would be only the fifth
18 woman to ever serve on the Maine Supreme Court
19 in its 200-year history. She would be the
20 first woman appointed to the Court in over
21 12 years, and she would be the first woman
22 appointed directly from the bar in over
23 36 years.

24 Like Chief Justice Wathen and Associate
25 Justice Silver, Governor Mills has a great

1 respect for the intellectual ability, careful
2 writing skills, and the analytical experience
3 Ms. Connors would bring to the Court.

4 Mr. Hobson is with me today to speak with --
5 from his perspective on our committee as well.

6 And with that, I will simply close by
7 saying, on behalf of the governor, I thank
8 Ms. Connors for her willingness to serve, and
9 I respectfully request your consideration of
10 and support for this nomination. I would be
11 pleased to answer any questions that the
12 committee may have of me, and if not, I will
13 yield to my colleague, Mr. Hobson. Thank you,
14 Mr. and Madam Chair.

15 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Langhauser.

16 Are there questions of Mr. Langhauser?
17 Thank you.

18 Next, represent -- I recognize
19 Mr. Hobson, the chair of the governor's
20 judicial selection committee.

21 MR. HOBSON: Thank you very much,
22 Senator Carpenter and Representative Bailey
23 and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on
24 the Judiciary. My name is John Hobson. I'm
25 chair of Governor Mills' judicial selection

1 committee.

2 On behalf of the judicial selection
3 committee, I asked you to recommend favorably
4 the nomination of Catherine Connors on a -- as
5 a position on the Maine Supreme Court.

6 Ms. Connors is an appellate's lawyer
7 appellate lawyer. She has the breadth and
8 experience that the governor's counsel has
9 laid out for you. She has represented a broad
10 range of clients on a broad range of issues.
11 She brings the intellectual rigger and the
12 writing ability that will contribute to what
13 has been a long history of intellectual rigger
14 and high standards of the Maine Supreme Court.

15 In addition, as Mr. Langhauser noted, she
16 has an important position as a direct
17 appointee from the bar. There is a tradition
18 of this state having a member of the Maine
19 Supreme Court being a direct appointee to the
20 bar, and that's important from the private
21 bar's perspective because, not to denigrate at
22 all, it's very important to have judicial
23 experience at times, but it's important on a
24 collective body of seven to bring to bear the
25 perspective of the private practitioner in

1 terms of the impact of the rulemaking and just
2 the general administration of the courts.

3 Ms. Connors can bring both that
4 experience and perspective to bear as a
5 position on the Maine Supreme Court, as Maine
6 has a tradition of having, and can bring the
7 intellectual and skills and abilities that she
8 clearly has, as the state will greatly benefit
9 from having Catherine Connors as a member of
10 the Maine Supreme Court.

11 And on behalf of the committee, I
12 respectfully request that this committee
13 support the recommendation of Ms. Connors to
14 the Maine Supreme Court to the full senate.

15 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Hobson.

16 Are there questions of Mr. Hobson?
17 Representative Evangelos.

18 REPRESENTATIVE EVANGELOS: Thank you,
19 Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Hobson.

20 Mr. Hobson, just a particular concern I
21 have regarding the judicial selection process
22 regarding the one area. The nominee has
23 represented the banking industry in a variety
24 of areas, including foreclosures, and I know
25 that Justice Saufley recuses herself at times

1 from those type of cases because of the
2 involvement of her spouse in that industry.

3 In the event that the nominee, if she's
4 confirmed, has to recuse herself from these
5 cases, you're going to be down to five
6 Supreme Court justices. Did you take that
7 into consideration?

8 MR. HOBSON: Well, any justice on any
9 issue, if they have had prior involvement, and
10 obviously, something coming from the private
11 sector has that issue, will have to recuse
12 themselves. And so there may be a time that
13 the Court is down from its seven members to
14 less than, but as we -- today, earlier, this
15 committee affirmatively recommended to the
16 full senate Justice Hjelm. There is a basis.

17 I also think Justice Clifford is --
18 active retired -- and he is -- has been a
19 sitting Superior Court justice as well as an
20 experienced Superior Court justice, Justice
21 Clifford's (indiscernible).

22 So those are resources available to the
23 chief in the event there is a case at which
24 Ms. Connors is required to recuse herself.

25 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Hobson.

1 Representative Babbidge.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BABBIDGE: For Mr. Hobson.

3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 Could you review for me the guidelines
5 for recusal?

6 MR. HOBSON: I can't. Honestly, it would
7 be -- the answer is I can't, but --

8 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Mr. Hobson. I'm
9 sure we'll get that thought from somebody else
10 shortly.

11 Other questions by members of the
12 committee of Mr. Hobson? Thank you, sir.

13 MR. HOBSON: Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: The chair would now recognize
15 Catherine Connors for the purpose of making
16 such statement, as she wishes, about her
17 nomination. Welcome.

18 MS. CONNORS: Thank you.

19 Mr. Chair, Madam Chair, and distinguished
20 members of the committee, my name is Catherine
21 Connors from Kennebunk. I want to thank
22 Governor Mills for nominating me and this
23 committee for recording me the courtesy of
24 this hearing. I'm humbled by this nomination,
25 and I very much appreciate your consideration.

1 I've lived and practiced law here in
2 Maine for the last 34 years. My husband,
3 Mike, is here with me today. Mike works for
4 the Kennebunk Public Works Department, and
5 knowing him as I do, it is hard for him to
6 leave his plow truck and his fellow drivers
7 this time of year. So I much appreciate, as
8 always, his support for me.

9 After moving from New Jersey to Ohio to
10 Illinois as a young child, I grew up outside
11 of Chicago in a middle-class family, the
12 daughter of a civil engineer and a homemaker.
13 School was always a priority for my family,
14 but I had to work; so I kept a variety of jobs
15 from the age of 15. I quickly found that you
16 can learn about the real lives, burdens, and
17 dreams of people, and the justices and
18 injustices, from working in places like a dry
19 cleaner, a department store, and an amusement
20 park.

21 After graduating from my local high
22 school, I enrolled at nearby Northwestern
23 University because I was fortunate enough to
24 get a significant scholarship. I wanted to be
25 a history teacher, but when I could not afford

1 to accept Princeton's offer for graduate
2 school, I turned instead to continue at
3 Northwestern with its law school. Looking
4 back, I'm happy I did.

5 After working through law school, my
6 first job was to clerk for the chief judge of
7 the federal district court, the trial court in
8 Illinois. Because he had a national
9 reputation, I was fortunate to have a prized
10 opportunity to work with him and more
11 fortunate, yet, when he asked me to stay
12 longer than initially planned. Like all court
13 clerkships, it's a front-row seat to seeing
14 how judging, and in this case, really
15 excellent judging, is done.

16 After that clerkship, I moved to Maine
17 with Mike, whom I had met in college and who
18 patiently waited until we could return to his
19 home state. After starting in Portland and
20 then Freeport to follow his career, we settled
21 in Kennebunk next to his home town of
22 Kennebunkport. I started straightaway at
23 Pierce Atwood, where I have remained
24 for 34 years.

25 I was first assigned by senior partners

1 to conduct research and briefing memos on a
2 variety of complex subjects. These
3 assignments soon morphed into what has now
4 long been my practice as an appellate lawyer.
5 And it might be helpful for me to explain how
6 my practice works.

7 Our firm has 33 subject matter
8 departments or practice groups: Litigation,
9 immigration, real estate, employment, and the
10 like. The lawyers in these groups are
11 subject-matter experts in their area, and they
12 develop and manage the client relations.

13 When those lawyers have a matter that has
14 become contested, gone through the trial or
15 regulatory stage and an appeal is being
16 considered, they come to me. I'm essentially
17 the appellate department for the firm. My job
18 is to advise on the opportunities, strengths
19 and weaknesses, and potential strategies for
20 appeal, regardless of what the legal subject
21 is, regardless of whether the matter is in
22 state or federal court, and regardless of
23 whether the case is in Maine or federal court
24 elsewhere in the country.

25 Because of this structure, I have, over

1 my 34 years, handled thousands of issues and
2 hundreds of cases in many different courts.
3 As Mr. Langhauser, I think, noted, I've
4 participated in over 100 oral arguments before
5 state and federal appeals courts. My cases
6 have primarily been on civil dockets, but
7 there have been criminal cases as well. The
8 clients have included plaintiffs, defendants,
9 and amici. They've included individuals who
10 are minors and adults, businesses that are
11 small and large, state agencies and
12 international regulators, and a variety of
13 non-profits.

14 I am also often asked to help lawyers at
15 other firms who seek my counsel on appellate
16 rules, precedent, and strategy. I have many
17 times provided my counsel for a reduced or
18 waived fee. I have even managed to counsel a
19 few political officials from all
20 three Independent, Democratic, and
21 Republican parties when asked.

22 The subject of law that I've had to learn
23 run literally from A to Z. They would start
24 with antitrust and then run to include
25 bankruptcy, contracts, elections, equal

1 protection, free speech, harassment, labor,
2 employment, property taxes, and end with
3 zoning.

4 My work product is, I think, as close as
5 one gets in practice to the work product of an
6 appellate judge. I'm asked to learn a
7 distinct, often complex, subject of law
8 quickly and absorb a large record containing a
9 volume of facts, procedures, and arguments.
10 Then all of that gets condensed by disciplined
11 analysis to its essential prioritized
12 components.

13 Like an appellate judge, there is much
14 research to be done to make sure that all of
15 the arguments are both correct and complete,
16 and like an appellate judge, I must write a
17 clear, succinct, but complete summary from
18 that work. The difference, of course, is that
19 if confirmed, I would have to marshal all of
20 those skills, not into a brief advocating my
21 client's position, but working collaboratively
22 with colleagues on the bench into an opinion
23 that is fair and just for the parties, clear
24 to the trial courts and bar, and stable for
25 its position relative to other relating

1 existing laws.

2 From my experience doing this type of
3 work, I've, as Mr. Langhauser noted, been
4 admitted to practice in three states, six
5 federal appeals, and three federal trial
6 courts, and in the United States Supreme
7 Court. I am fortunate to have the opportunity
8 to become a member of the American Academy of
9 Appellate Lawyers, a national invitation
10 only -- Organization of Appellate
11 Practitioners. I'm one of four members from
12 the -- Maine, and one of approximately 150
13 members nationally. Our most famous member,
14 United States Supreme Court Chief Justice John
15 Roberts, is good enough to host us in
16 Washington when his schedule allows.

17 I have also been fortunate to have the
18 unique experience providing counsel to USAID
19 and the World Bank as they sought to help
20 eastern European countries who are opening to
21 the west in the 1990s to establish the rule of
22 law through transparent regulatory frameworks.
23 That work called on me to teach, design, and
24 help implement multi, cross-nation regulatory
25 structures. The overarching lesson from that

1 very challenging assignment, and other work in
2 Africa and other developing nations, was to
3 appreciate the value of law and its essential
4 importance in providing for an orderly, fair,
5 and stable society.

6 That experience, like so many of my
7 experiences, came from what I regard as the
8 extraordinary opportunity to work with and
9 learn from colleagues with exceptional
10 ability, including two former Maine Supreme
11 Court chief justices, four-time United States
12 Supreme Court special master, a former U.S.
13 ambassador to Chile, and a former partner who
14 now serves as a federal appeals court judge.
15 They each helped teach me, at the highest
16 level, about the care and importance it takes
17 to practice law thoughtfully.

18 In addition to my practice, I've been
19 affiliated with the Maine Board of Bar
20 Examiners, the Maine Bar Foundation, the First
21 Circuit Advisory Committee on the Rules, the
22 Maine Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules,
23 local non-profits, and a local town committee.
24 If confirmed, I will step away from all
25 affiliations not permitted by the Code of

1 Judicial Conduct, and I will, of course,
2 consistent with those ethical rules, recuse
3 myself from cases related to my practice.

4 It's truly an honor to stand before you
5 today. I pledge to you that if confirmed, I
6 will do my very best to serve the people of
7 Maine with respect, thoughtfulness, and
8 justice they deserve. I pledge to faithfully
9 apply in each and every case the laws that
10 you, as legislatures, enact, to uphold all
11 individual rights and liberties that have been
12 established and relied upon here in Maine
13 independent of what the federal government or
14 other states may decide for their own
15 constitutions, and to do so always mindful of
16 the real world impact that my decisions would
17 have on our fellow citizens.

18 I thank you for the courtesy of your
19 consideration, and I would be happy to answer,
20 as best I can, any questions you may have.
21 Thank you.

22 THE CHAIR: Thank you, Ms. Connors, for
23 your presentation and for your -- and for your
24 work.

25 I'm going to sort of cut to the chase of

1 one of the issues I think is going to come up
2 here today, and that's the other edge of the
3 sword that comes from your breadth of
4 practice, and that is the issue of recusal.

5 So I'll mimic the question asked by your
6 representative from Kennebunk. Give us your
7 thoughts on recusal. You've represented a lot
8 of clients who well may come before the law
9 court, and so give us your understanding of
10 the recusal rules.

11 MS. CONNORS: Well, my understanding is,
12 first of all, when it comes to anything that
13 I've heard a privileged communication about
14 that may relate to the case, that's it
15 forever. I never have that case in front of
16 me. Then as to client -- clients of Pierce
17 Atwood, any Pierce Atwood case that comes, I
18 believe it's appropriate to recuse myself for
19 the term, the seven years. Then there's the
20 issue of the -- even the appearance of
21 impropriety, and that's where I think you have
22 to look at the individual circumstances of
23 each -- each case. That's my understanding of
24 what the Code of Judicial Conduct requires,
25 and I'd certainly take the advice from my

1 colleagues and the experts in that field in
2 making those individual determinations.

3 THE CHAIR: And you would have no problem
4 recusing yourself from anything that gives the
5 appearance of a conflict?

6 MS. CONNORS: Correct. And when there's
7 any doubt, to defer on the side of recusal.

8 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Do other members
9 of the committee have questions?
10 Representative Babbidge.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BABBIDGE: Hello, and
12 welcome and --

13 MS. CONNORS: Thank you.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BABBIDGE: --
15 congratulations on the nomination.

16 I served on Utilities & Energy, I don't
17 know, about 14, 16 years ago. That's what it
18 was called back then, Utilities & Energy
19 Committee. And then a decade later, I served
20 on the Energy, Utilities & Technology
21 Committee, which is basically the same
22 assignment, but had been -- and we had the
23 responsibility of confirming the commissioners
24 of the Public Utilities Commission. And I
25 recall asking a question that I understood the

1 answer to, but I wanted to hear people say it.
2 And we've talked a lot about bias here today.
3 And so my questioning at that time, and I'll
4 repeat it now, is more along that same line,
5 is --

6 And I'll say one other thing. I have
7 been a little concerned over the course of the
8 last decade that the largest number of
9 appointments, although of very competent
10 people, seem to be prosecutors. And so I
11 thought there should be more from the
12 private -- from the private side. What I find
13 interesting, of course, is that sometimes the
14 folks from the private side aren't always
15 representing the clients that I'm hoping
16 they're representing.

17 So my -- I haven't -- I haven't heard an
18 awful lot about you. I've heard some very
19 good things, but even those that might be of
20 concern, the -- what they're both saying is
21 that you're a very competent -- a highly
22 competent attorney in that regard.

23 My question comes to bias. And as we've
24 talked about it with all three nominees today,
25 really, and -- and how do you see your

1 experience of the last three decades and --
2 impacting your own objectivity on the Court?

3 MS. CONNORS: Well, in terms of my
4 experience, it's true that I have -- the
5 clients that have come to me through my firm
6 have often been in the civil nature and
7 corporate clients, a lot, but that certainly
8 isn't the only type of client that I've had.

9 I have represented civil rights, a
10 guardian of a pretrial detainee who we alleged
11 delivered indifference to his health
12 conditions. I've represented two waitresses
13 who were sexually harassed. I've represented
14 the Department of Marine Resources in arguing
15 that the rockweed belongs to the people of the
16 state instead of private property. I have --
17 I've done a lot of work in -- even in my
18 paying practice that is a very -- a breadth of
19 many different types of clients.

20 And then when you look at my pro bono, I
21 think we expand the world more broadly to --
22 I've done a lot of work in animal welfare and
23 LGBTQ rights and trying to affirm the Maine
24 financial disclosure rules.

25 So if I -- there's not a big place I can

1 find a bias because I've done a lot of work
2 for a lot of different types of people. I've
3 done cases for criminal defendants, and that's
4 how I started in Chicago, was in criminal
5 defense.

6 And then finally, we're talking about an
7 appellate group and an appellate panel, and I
8 think everybody brings their own unique
9 backgrounds to that environment. And it's
10 good to have diversity of different views.
11 And so I don't think you want to have everyone
12 who comes from the same background. And maybe
13 if they all have different biases, at least if
14 they know and they're conscious of what those
15 biases may be, they can help each other so
16 that the collaborative decision is better than
17 would be to some of its individual parts.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BABBIDGE: I appreciate
19 that answer. And, you know, just to quote the
20 chief, as I did on Tuesday, she spoke to us in
21 the chamber, and she talked about -- and it
22 wasn't a highly definitive moment. She
23 mentioned about the responsibility and task of
24 judges to be both skilled and to have skills
25 and humanity. And in the case of somebody who

1 hasn't served on the Court, we don't have a
2 chance to assess the intangibles. We don't
3 know, perhaps, what your judgment would be
4 specifically.

5 A lot of, you know, cases in the large
6 corporation are going to be assigned. And so
7 I just give you the opportunity to respond
8 about those things that might -- there's no
9 way we can judge empathy or sensitivity in
10 that regard, and I'd just like you to comment
11 on that.

12 MS. CONNORS: Well, I think my pro bono
13 work shows a little bit more of the kinds of
14 concerns that interest me in working on for
15 the ACLU, Common Cause, and entities like
16 that. And then I don't have any children, but
17 I have three dogs and two cats, and so I've
18 spent a good, long time working, first, for
19 the Animal Refuge League when I lived in
20 Portland, and then I'm vice president of the
21 Animal Welfare Society. And so my humanity
22 goes towards the little, helpless critters,
23 too, and I spend a lot of time working on
24 those issues.

25 And all I can tell you is that I've

1 spent 34 years working for myself and making a
2 good living and working for the firm and my
3 firm's clients, and now I think it's time for
4 me to use those skills and that experience and
5 do something for the people of Maine.

6 THE CHAIR: Senator Bellows.

7 SENATOR BELLOWS: Thank you for your work
8 on LGBTQ rights. I saw you in action in 2009,
9 and that was -- was meaningful.

10 I think the questions of biases and
11 inequities in our justice are really important
12 because the data shows that there are
13 disproportionate impacts in terms of
14 incarceration, in terms of lengths of
15 sentencing on communities of color. And I
16 think there have been ongoing challenges
17 between the State of Maine and the sovereign
18 nations, which are recognized --
19 federally-recognized tribes in our state.

20 And so I want to ask you to expound on
21 the difference between your role as a private
22 attorney in cases that have been in opposition
23 to some of Maine's tribes and some of your
24 writing around -- your article around water
25 tribal claims and Maine's not-so-subtle

1 settlement acts.

2 Do you believe the tribes have sovereign
3 authority as separate nations? And maybe
4 share a little bit more about your thinking in
5 that area.

6 MS. CONNORS: Well, it's true that over
7 the years that the clients that I've
8 represented with -- for the -- on behalf of
9 the firm and with other lawyers have often
10 been in opposition to the positions that have
11 been taken by the tribes. They've been in
12 confluence with the position taken by the
13 State of Maine. So -- and that's been the
14 course of the trajectory of the work that I've
15 been asked to do as an advocate. And even
16 that article that you mentioned, I consider
17 that as an advocate of the position of my
18 clients.

19 And certainly, I understand the
20 difference between that role and the role that
21 I would have as a judge and particularly the
22 role that the legislature has, because the
23 first -- the first and foremost people who are
24 deciding the issues relating to this subject
25 are the people who write the settlement

1 treaties, or rewrite them, and that's you.
2 And the job of the Court isn't -- is to
3 interpret your intent and to imply that,
4 whatever it may be. And that's my job, should
5 I have the honor of the confirmation.

6 THE CHAIR: Representative Harnett.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HARNETT: Thank you,
8 Mr. Chair. Thank you very much for applying
9 for this very important position. I've
10 reviewed all of your materials. Your
11 background is remarkable. I do want to follow
12 up on Senator Bellows' question, specifically
13 as it relates to the tribes.

14 When you were talking about recusal, you
15 indicated that you would -- anybody you
16 represented, any entity you had represented,
17 you're recusing yourself before the Court, but
18 I think you said sort of as a blanket rule and
19 you have different rules when it came to an
20 appearance of conflict.

21 I have heard from representatives of the
22 tribes and some of the advocates for the
23 tribes, that they feel the positions that you
24 took -- again, I know they were consistent
25 with the State's -- about tribal sovereignty,

1 rights to water, and sustenance fishing, they
2 viewed as attacks on that sovereignty and
3 their rights.

4 Would you recuse yourself from issues
5 concerning tribal rights if they came before
6 you on the law court related to the issues
7 that you litigated?

8 MS. CONNORS: Oh, yes. That's the short
9 answer. I think in -- particularly with
10 respect to matters where I've done a lot of
11 litigation over a long period of years, and
12 the tribes are one -- one subject and one set
13 of clients, but I would take a queue from
14 Chief Justice McKusick, who, when he was
15 deciding whether to recuse himself from
16 similar clients that he spent a long time over
17 many years representing, he -- I think it was
18 a minimum of ten years that he decided he
19 would not hear that, and certainly the seven
20 years of the term.

21 REPRESENTATIVE HARNETT: So what you're
22 telling us here today is you would recuse
23 yourself from cases involving those issues if
24 you're appointed and confirmed?

25 MS. CONNORS: Because I think even --

1 we're talking about the appearance of
2 impropriety. So even if the Code of Judicial
3 Conduct didn't say in black and white, Cathy,
4 you can't do this, I think it would make sense
5 as a logical matter for me to stay away from
6 that and other clients that I've spent a long
7 period of time over many years dealing with a
8 variety of subjects.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HARNETT: And I realize
10 your subjects run from A to Z. So I respect
11 that, and I appreciate your answer.

12 THE CHAIR: Senator Keim.

13 SENATOR KEIM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
14 thank you for your willingness to step in and
15 take on this role. I thank you for being
16 here.

17 So again, just going back to your work
18 and the questions that have come up around
19 recusal -- and I think with some of your
20 answers, you've made it clear. Obviously,
21 you've touched on a lot of subject matters. A
22 lot of them you did for your clients and took
23 on, you know, their perspective, as rightly
24 you should. But then there's also what you do
25 as pro bono work that you do because that's --

1 where your strong feelings lie, apparently.
2 And so then would that mean, also, that when
3 the ACLU or GLAAD came before the Maine
4 Supreme Court that if -- with those -- would
5 that also mean that you would need to recuse
6 yourself? And can you help me understand how
7 you would view that?

8 MS. CONNORS: Well, I think -- I think
9 it -- that depends on the specific issue,
10 especially when it comes to someone like the
11 ACLU, because I haven't done a lot
12 consistently over a long period of time.
13 They've been discrete matters. So I think it
14 would have to -- I'd have to look and see and
15 confer to decide where the Code of Judicial
16 Conduct fell on the particular -- and what
17 role they were playing in that particular
18 matter.

19 With GLAAD, I have spearheaded the
20 partnership that my firm has had with that
21 entity for -- since 2008. So because justice
22 with the tribes, I think that would be a
23 matter where, if they were a party, that I
24 would really need to recuse myself for the
25 period of the term.

1 THE CHAIR: (Indiscernible).

2 Representative Evangelos.

3 REPRESENTATIVE EVANGELOS: Thank you,
4 Mr. Chair, and thank you Mrs. Connors. Even
5 some of the folks that have contacted us have
6 said you're a very good attorney. So I wanted
7 you to know that.

8 I do want to follow up a little bit on
9 the line of questioning with the recusals.
10 You identified that the ones you'd recuse
11 yourself for life and then seven years, but
12 what is the shelf life of the appearance of a
13 conflict in those cases? I mean, has it been
14 in the last one year or five years? I mean --

15 MS. CONNORS: Well, I mean, that's a --
16 you ask a very good question, and if it's --
17 if it's somebody who's represented by Pierce
18 Atwood, I'm recused, whoever the client may
19 be, whether I've represented them, ever,
20 myself or not. If it's somebody I was -- who
21 was once my client, and then I believe that
22 it's -- it's going to be a significant period
23 of time for recusal, no matter what the issue
24 was, is certainly if it was something that I
25 ever worked on, recused forever. If it has to

1 do with something else, it's a tangential
2 relationship, it's been many years, then I
3 think that's where we're talking about where
4 it becomes very important to look at the
5 specifics.

6 REPRESENTATIVE EVANGELOS: And so in
7 relationship, for instance, to banks and
8 foreclosures --

9 MS. CONNORS: Well --

10 REPRESENTATIVE EVANGELOS: -- have you
11 had a lot of those cases?

12 MS. CONNORS: I think I've appeared --
13 I've appeared on a number of foreclosure
14 appeals on behalf of banks, not -- and a
15 couple of amici briefs. So I'd probably be
16 recused from -- well, certainly from those
17 particular clients, those particular banks.
18 And I'd have to go back and look at the cases,
19 but I think we're talking about significant
20 recusals.

21 REPRESENTATIVE EVANGELOS: And in
22 follow-up, I think you've also represented
23 Central Maine Power.

24 MS. CONNORS: And that would be another
25 one of those clients that I've done a -- a

1 significant amount of time -- work over a long
2 period of time. So I think I'm recused for
3 the seven years of the term.

4 REPRESENTATIVE EVANGELOS: Because
5 there's going to be some cases coming up, I'm
6 pretty sure.

7 MS. CONNORS: I'm recused.

8 REPRESENTATIVE EVANGELOS: In reference
9 to the issue of the native nations and just,
10 like, a case like Lincoln Pulp and Paper, I
11 mean, there's a -- I know you have a job to
12 do, but I mean, all of us have to make daily
13 decisions about what we're willing to do and
14 what we're not willing to do as a matter of
15 our life and our conscious. I mean, there are
16 some things I'm just not willing to do, you
17 know, and I would just tell my boss I'm not
18 doing it.

19 So I mean, have you had these kind of
20 internal conflicts where, you know, you're --
21 you're hired to represent a certain side of a
22 case, but the internal dynamics of your person
23 may be in conflict with that? How do you
24 reconcile that?

25 MS. CONNORS: Well, I think under our

1 adversarial system, we need to step up and be
2 zealous advocates for a wide variety of
3 clients. Like, I've represented -- I
4 represented a murderer. She was convicted
5 after I got her a new trial. Now, I don't
6 like murderers, but I think that -- that they
7 have a right under our adversarial system
8 that -- to be heard and to do the best case
9 you can for, them because what you are
10 defending in that instance, even if the person
11 may have done it, is you are defending the
12 system and the rule of law, and you're trying
13 to bring the questions in front of the
14 decisionmaker. And I think that was my role,
15 and I've tried.

16 There's a -- there's -- there's a duty, I
17 think, to be an advocate and to take difficult
18 cases that you may not have a personal belief
19 in, but I can't really talk about, which I
20 believed in and which I didn't believe in
21 because I don't think the ethical rules allow
22 for me to vouch or denigrate any of the
23 clients I might have had over the years.

24 THE CHAIR: Representative
25 (indiscernible), do you have a question?

1 UNIDENTIFIED REPRESENTATIVE: Thank you,
2 Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mrs. Connors for being
3 here. Thank you for your years of service and
4 your commitment to continue this service for
5 the people of Maine.

6 In the past number of years, I've had the
7 opportunity to work with your husband on a
8 number of different public works issues. As I
9 begin to understand who he was and what made
10 him tick, I understood that when he made a
11 commitment on an issue, he stood firm. I
12 won't hold that against you today.

13 But my question is: Do you have that
14 same commitment when you understand the issues
15 that you have before you to stand firm on the
16 laws and the Constitution of the State of
17 Maine?

18 MS. CONNORS: If he isn't laughing right
19 now at that, he knows the answer to that is,
20 yes, Cathy's as stubborn as he is, but we
21 still manage to stay married for all these
22 many years. But the answer is absolutely yes.

23 THE CHAIR: Senator Keim, do you have
24 another question?

25 SENATOR KEIM: Yes. Thank you,

1 Mr. Chair.

2 Yeah. So, you know, I think -- I just
3 kind of wanted to follow up on that because I
4 appreciate what you wrote, that the law
5 provides an orderly, fair, and stable society;
6 and I don't think the same can be said about
7 politics. So I just wanted your opinion.
8 When you think of the Constitution, do you see
9 it as a living document? Or are you more what
10 would be called an originalist?

11 MS. CONNORS: Well, I appreciate the
12 question, and I know that Justice Horton, I
13 think, gave a response that I was not into,
14 and I agree with a lot of that. I do believe
15 that we should go back and -- as a starting
16 point, we need to understand what the intent
17 of the framers were, just like the job usually
18 in interpreting and applying what the
19 legislature has enacted is divining your
20 intent. Then the problem is we have 200 years
21 and different technology and different
22 situations. So even people who call
23 themselves originalists versus people who say
24 it's a living document, when it comes down to
25 actually applying the -- and trying to divine

1 what makes sense, it's got to be done on a
2 case-by-case basis, as it's easier said than
3 done.

4 One thing I would like to emphasize, and
5 I like the opportunity that you're giving me
6 to do this, is that we have two constitutions,
7 and one of them is the Maine Constitution, and
8 that's the one we start with under the privacy
9 doctrine that the law court has talked about
10 before, and it's endorsed this. Before we go
11 looking to see what the federal protections
12 are, we need to first look at the Maine
13 Constitution because that is what embodies the
14 concerns and the values of this state. And if
15 they are more protective of constitutional
16 rights, then that's what we adhere to. And we
17 need to look at both documents as we go
18 forward.

19 SENATOR KEIM: Thank you.

20 THE CHAIR: Senator Bellows and then
21 (indiscernible).

22 SENATOR BELLOWS: So I'm going to ask
23 you -- thank you for answering my first
24 question. But when you look at the history of
25 the law court and that responsibility to -- of

1 all three branches of government to try to
2 make people's lives better, and when you look
3 to some of their significant decisions, can
4 you point to a decision where you can say the
5 law court got it right, that made Mainer's
6 lives better?

7 MS. CONNORS: I'm going to -- you have
8 given me the opportunity to talk about my
9 favorite case in Maine law. It's an oldie but
10 a goody, and it's an opinion of the justices
11 in 1857.

12 The worst case, I think people would
13 agree, that ever came out of the United States
14 Supreme Court is the Dred Scott decision where
15 they upheld the Fugitive Slave Acts and they
16 treated people of color like property. And a
17 similar issue came up in Maine at the same
18 time shortly after the Dred Scott decision,
19 and in the opinion of the justices -- each of
20 them back then wrote their own opinions -- the
21 question was whether people of color should be
22 able -- men, people of color, should be able
23 to vote and were they citizens of the United
24 States. And they were all contrary to the
25 Dred Scott decision, and they said of course

1 they can, they're people, just like anybody
2 else. And it -- we're all equal here. And it
3 really -- if you want to feel good about being
4 a Mainer, go back and read the opinion of the
5 justices from 1857. And that made things
6 better for a constituency at that time. In
7 1857, they were certainly treated better than
8 in other places.

9 THE CHAIR: Representative Reckitt.

10 REPRESENTATIVE RECKITT: I have a
11 reputation of being kind of contrary in these
12 hearings.

13 THE CHAIR: (Indiscernible.)

14 REPRESENTATIVE RECKITT: You never did?
15 Oh. Give me another chance. No.

16 Anyway -- and I -- I don't feel contrary
17 today, in part, because I did a lot of digging
18 about you, and nothing I dug was -- smelled at
19 all. And to me, I want to know whether or not
20 this description that was given to me of you
21 is, in your mind, accurate.

22 The person with whom I spoke not only
23 said that Maine would be your client if you
24 were the -- you were to be confirmed, but that
25 you were not an ideologue of any sort. And so

1 my question is: Does that phrase describe
2 you, in your view?

3 MS. CONNORS: Yes. Well, I'm -- I am an
4 ideologue about the rule of law. I believe in
5 the rule of law. I believe in equal justice
6 under the law. That's -- I believe in the
7 oath I took as an officer of the court. But
8 in terms of substantive or politics, as I
9 mentioned, I have done work for Independents,
10 Republicans, and Democrats, because each of
11 those instances, I was advancing what I
12 considered was a rule of law for the benefit
13 of the people of Maine.

14 THE CHAIR: Other questions by members of
15 the committee? Senator Keim.

16 SENATOR KEIM: So I would like to also
17 hear your response to administrative
18 deference. So I --

19 MS. CONNORS: When you asked that
20 question, I said, Ooh, that's really good.

21 SENATOR KEIM: So, you know -- and to
22 preface this a little, we get a lot of bills
23 that come through the legislature where the
24 different government entities want to have --
25 expand their ability to change laws basically

1 through routine technical rather than major
2 substantive, because then if it's major
3 substantive, they have to come to us, the
4 lawmakers, to approve these things.

5 So I see that, you know, as taking away
6 the legislature's role in creating law, but
7 then this idea also then of giving deference
8 to those same agencies, if there is a conflict
9 and that comes up in court, I'd like your
10 opinion on how that plays out in the
11 courtroom.

12 MS. CONNORS: Well, you might be aware of
13 this, but there's -- that is an issue that the
14 United States Supreme Court is looking at
15 right now, because I think, as you've
16 suggested, one concern about if you give too
17 much deference to the administrators, are
18 they -- are they creating the law, because
19 you're deferring to them. And so they're
20 wrestling with that issue.

21 In terms of whether -- however they come
22 out this term on that issue, whether they're
23 going to adjust what they call their Chevron
24 deference -- and then there are different
25 levels of deference -- whether they decide to

1 do that or not, in the past, the law court has
2 sometimes, infrequently, cited Chevron, and
3 then some -- usually, it doesn't. And I would
4 expect that they would take a look and see
5 what the results were from the United States
6 Supreme Court and then make up their own minds
7 about what makes sense best for the people of
8 Maine because there's many different facets to
9 the whole issue of administrative law.

10 I co-wrote an article on an agency
11 administrative law issue that's called agency
12 capture, and this happens more in the federal
13 system in Washington. But, you know, on the
14 one hand, you have people who are in agencies
15 for a long time, and you think they develop a
16 certain way of looking at things not going out
17 into the private world; and is that good or
18 bad? But then you have what they call agency
19 capture, which is the phenomenon of they are
20 coming out of the agency and they're going to
21 go work for the big company; and are they
22 feeling beholden for doing that while they're
23 in an agency because they know once they get
24 out of the FCC, they're going to make a
25 zillion dollars working for the telephone

1 company? So how does that come into your
2 factoring what level of deference you should
3 give to the agency decision-makers?

4 So that's a very kind of long response
5 for: There are a lot of different factors. I
6 think you have to look at it case by case.
7 You can't -- you have to have precedents that
8 you don't radically change, but everything, I
9 think, needs to deserve a fresh look.

10 SENATOR KEIM: Thank you. I appreciate
11 that lengthy answer. I think that's great
12 because, yes, I mean, part of my concern is
13 that we are letting the agencies create the
14 law and then giving them deference when they
15 get to the court. I think the people need to
16 be viewed equally -- right -- and the law
17 needs to be applied equally.

18 MS. CONNORS: Well, the ultimate
19 deference should be given to the legislature.
20 I mean, you're -- of the co -- of the three
21 branches, you're the first among equals
22 because it's representatives of the people,
23 and it's not the job of the Court to make the
24 law or the executive body. The job of the
25 Court is to apply the law that you make.

1 SENATOR KEIM: Except when we happen to
2 pass unconstitutional laws.

3 MS. CONNORS: Within the parameters of
4 the Constitution.

5 THE CHAIR: Senator Bellows.

6 SENATOR BELLOWS: To that point, when you
7 look at the law court, can you share some
8 examples of where you think the law court has
9 been an appropriate check on executive abuse
10 of power or legislative overreach?

11 MS. CONNORS: Well, I know that that was
12 a difficult one for Justice Horton, too. We
13 do have -- in Maine, we have separation of
14 powers provisions in our constitution that are
15 explicit, unlike the Federal Constitution. So
16 over the years, the law court has cited this
17 upon occasion to say that therefore, the
18 separation of powers analysis that should be
19 applied by law court is stricter than it is
20 under the federal counterpart.

21 And I just can't remember off the top of
22 my head when they've applied that doctrine to
23 curb executive power or power. And they
24 have upon some occasions, whether it had to do
25 with pardons, maybe, or as being separate from

1 what the legislature was doing or what the --
2 there have been a series of cases, but I can't
3 remember them.

4 THE CHAIR: Other questions by members of
5 the committee? If not -- I'm sorry.
6 Representative Babbidge.

7 REPRESENTATIVE BABBIDGE: Thank you very
8 much, Mr. Chairman.

9 I mentioned about humanity earlier, and
10 asking this question is probably -- it may be
11 unfair because I've not asked it of all the
12 nominees we've had, but it goes down to basic
13 judicial philosophy.

14 We've been talking about original intent,
15 a living constitution, and all that. I'm
16 recalled of something that must probably be in
17 the first year of law school, a meeting
18 between Judge Hand and Judge Holmes, and
19 Judge Hand, you know, said, My friend, do
20 justice. And Holmes stopped his carriage and
21 backed up and said, Our job is not to do
22 justice, it's to do the law.

23 I found that somewhat troubling. I
24 understand that the legislature makes the law,
25 but I have also seen us make bad law, not

1 necessarily by substance, but by a lack of
2 clarification. So my take -- and I just want
3 to ask you if you can agree with this or
4 not -- is that the humanity element or the
5 sensitivity element that a judge is required
6 to have to be effective, in my opinion,
7 requires them to pursue justice, and in
8 capital letters, within the law. That seems
9 to be where I think a judge should be. Do you
10 disagree with that?

11 MS. CONNORS: No, I do not. And I think
12 it's important to -- for all judges to
13 remember that when a case comes in front of
14 us, that means human beings, that they're
15 people. That is probably the most -- one of
16 the most important moments in their life. And
17 I've done cases that involve billions of
18 dollars, but those cases aren't any more
19 important than when I've got insurance
20 benefits for a pregnant couple. And that's
21 the humanity that we have to keep in mind,
22 that every time somebody comes in front of us,
23 there are people that are involved.

24 THE CHAIR: Senator Bellows and then
25 Senator Keim.

1 SENATOR BELLOWS: So I think that one of
2 the challenges that we see in our justice
3 system is access to justice, and the access to
4 justice for those with the ability to pay to
5 retain counsel, to retain, you know, some of
6 the best counsel in the state result in
7 different outcomes than access to justice for
8 people from vulnerable communities, from
9 marginalized communities, for people without
10 the ability to pay. And as a result, I do
11 think we see some tensions arising in terms of
12 interpretation, certainly at the federal level
13 of the interpretation of constitutional rights
14 for corporations or associations of people
15 vis-à-vis the constitutional rights for the
16 individual, particularly in areas of commerce
17 or in areas of worker versus employer law.

18 Can you speak to -- your testimony speaks
19 to the need to protect individual liberties.
20 Can you speak to your philosophy around how we
21 ensure the rights of individuals. You know,
22 the Constitution puts checks and balances on
23 government power, but not so much on corporate
24 power and how we establish or preserve freedom
25 of speech or freedom of privacy or freedom of

1 due process or equal protection for the
2 individual who may have less power or money
3 than a group of individuals or corporate
4 power?

5 MS. CONNORS: Well, I think your --
6 that's a question that starts, like many
7 questions, with public policy. And so I think
8 going back to the judicial philosophy, in that
9 it's not the job of the judiciary to enact
10 public policy. That is the legislature's job.
11 And I would hope that our legislature, who is
12 closest to the people and understands these
13 issues, that will enact the statutory
14 framework that helps alleviate some of the
15 issues that you've raised. And then it would
16 be my job in the judiciary to interpret and
17 apply that in a way that you meant it to be
18 applied. That's what I think my role would be
19 as a part of the judiciary and that it would
20 be your role to determine what's best for the
21 people of Maine.

22 THE CHAIR: Senator Keim, you had another
23 question?

24 SENATOR KEIM: More of a comment, which
25 isn't quite allowed, but I --

1 The role of being a Supreme Court justice
2 is the highest, and we've all asked a lot of
3 questions of everyone, and more of you because
4 you come, you know, straight out with a lot of
5 real-life experience that is messy and gives
6 everybody, you know, a little bit of
7 heartburn, which is good because that means
8 we're, you know, doing our job to ask you the
9 questions. But I just want to thank you for
10 all of your really solid answers and just how
11 thoughtfully you answered everything and
12 thoroughly. I really appreciate it.

13 MS. CONNORS: Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: Representative Reckitt.

15 REPRESENTATIVE RECKITT: In the spirit of
16 bipartisanship, I will also make a small
17 comment.

18 What I had -- the most common thing that
19 was said to me was that you were rigorous,
20 analytical, hard -- a rigorous, analytical,
21 hardworking human being. And I want to
22 emphasize the last two words because I think
23 that's the issues that we need to feel, is
24 that all of your work has come from your basic
25 character as a human being who cares about

1 people and cares about the law, as well as the
2 law.

3 So I thank you for the comments that
4 others have made about you because that's the
5 only way I got to know you as opposed to
6 today.

7 MS. CONNORS: Well, I appreciate that and
8 all those people who talked to you.

9 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Are there
10 other -- Representative Reckitt -- are there
11 other questions of the committee? If not,
12 thank you very much.

13 MS. CONNORS: Thank you.

14 THE CHAIR: And please note that when you
15 get on the law court, if you get on the law
16 court, that we didn't interrupt you once.

17 MS. CONNORS: Thank you.

18 (End of requested material to be
19 transcribed.)
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CERTIFICATE

I, Tammy M. Smith, a Notary Public in and for the State of Maine, hereby certify that this audio recording was stenographically reported by me and later reduced to print through Computer-Aided Transcription, and the foregoing is a full and true record to the best of my ability from the audio recording that was provided. I further certify that I am a disinterested person in the event or outcome in the above-mentioned cause of action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my hand and affix my seal this 22nd day of November, 2024. Dated at Brewer, Maine.



Tammy M. Smith
Notary Public/Court Reporter

My Commission Expires: January 12, 2026

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