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March 10, 2020

Via E-mail

Representative Matt Claman
House Judiciary Committee
Attn: Lizzie Kubitz
Lizzie.Kubitz@akleg.gov

Re: Letter of Support for Samantha Cherot

Dear Representative Claman,

I am writing to provide my unconditional support of Samantha Cherot as Alaska's Public Defender. I intend to testify at tomorrow's confirmation hearings before the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Ms. Cherot and I are former colleagues at the Alaska Public Defender Agency. (I have been in private practice with Ashburn & Mason for the last five years.) Ms. Cherot was identified as a rising star at the Agency from the moment she arrived. She worked in the criminal trial unit for approximately three years, quickly taking on higher level felony cases. Ms. Cherot set the bar with her trial acquittal streak, with her persistent presence in negotiating other serious cases to resolution, and in her unflinching dedication to mentoring younger attorneys.

As you may be aware, Ms. Cherot has a great depth of other legal experience. She was a civil litigation associate in California prior to returning to Alaska, and she has worked in private practice in Anchorage. Prior to her appointment as Public Defender, Ms. Cherot worked in the Agency's civil division, handling Child in Need of Aid (CINA) cases and other matters. Ms. Cherot performed the latter task while supervising various

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personnel at the agency. In my eight years at the Agency, I can hardly recall someone with the depth of leadership and practical legal experience as Ms. Cherot. Ms. Cherot is equally respected by judges, prosecutors, and clients, and has the temperament and serious intellect to navigate budgetary, staffing, and personnel issues that will arise in her new position. She is ideally suited to be Alaska's Public Defender.

Ms. Cherot is a natural leader, a compromiser, and a unifier. I recommend that she be confirmed without hesitation.

Sincerely,

/s/Jeffrey W. Robinson
Jeffrey W. Robinson



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JOHN CASHION CHESTER GILMORE
MERA MATTHEWS DUNNINGTON BABB

March 10, 2020

Representative Matt Claman
State Capitol Room 118
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Claman:

I understand that Samantha Cherot's confirmation hearing for the Alaska Public Defender position is scheduled to occur tomorrow before the House Judiciary Committee. I am writing to offer my strongest recommendation for Ms. Cherot.

I have known and worked with Ms. Cherot for the past ten years. Several of those years were spent with Ms. Cherot at the Alaska Public Defender Agency in Anchorage. Ms. Cherot is committed to the mission of the Agency, she is highly regarded by her colleagues, and she possesses tremendous leadership skills.

Ms. Cherot is gracious, well informed, and she has a unique ability to process and consider the perspective of others. She has the personality traits that will allow her to effectively advocate for the Public Defender Agency in years to come. She also possesses the ability to make difficult decisions, and I believe that she will lead the Agency with determination, focus, and an ability to instill change as required.

As Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, it is my hope that you will work to ensure Ms. Cherot's confirmation as Alaska Public Defender.

Thanks in advance for your time and consideration, and thanks also for your service to the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

John P. Cashion

John Cashion, Attorney
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