



CASHION
GILMORE LLC
LAWYERS

510 L Street, Suite 601, ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
TEL. 907.222.7932 FAX 907.222.7938

www.cashiongilmore.com

JOHN CASHION CHESTER GILMORE
MERA MATTHEWS DUNNINGTON BABB

April 9, 2021

Representative Matt Claman
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
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 before the House Judiciary Committee on April 14, 2021. I am writing to offer my strongest recommendation for Ms. Cherot.

I have known Ms. Cherot professionally for more than ten years. During that time, I have worked with Ms. Cherot in the public sector at the Alaska Public Defender Agency, and also worked with her in private practice during the approximately two years that she spent with my law firm. Ms. Cherot's work as an attorney is of the highest caliber. She is intelligent, motivated, and an extremely hard-working individual.

Ms. Cherot has created positive change and growth at the Alaska Public Defender Agency since her appointment as Public Defender in September 2019. She has done a tremendous job in hiring new attorneys, and she has inspired confidence through her leadership in the line attorneys at the Public Defender Agency. Ms. Cherot is uniquely positioned in that she has extensive experience at the Agency in both the Criminal and Civil Divisions, and as a result has a comprehensive and thorough understanding of the sometimes competing interests of the Civil and Criminal Divisions.

In terms of individual characteristics or personality traits, Ms. Cherot is gracious, well informed, and she has a unique ability to process and consider the perspective of others. She is an individual who is capable of effectively advocating for the Public Defender Agency in years to come. Ms. Cherot is not one to shy away from making difficult decisions, and if appointed will lead the Agency with 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.

John Cashion, Attorney
Direct: 907.222.7936
John@cashiongilmore.com

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John". The signature is cursive and stylized, with the first letter being a large, prominent "J".

John P. Cashion