

# LATE

**From:** [Leslie Hayashi](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Re: In support of GM4 Ronald G. Johnson, Judicial Nominee  
**Date:** Monday, September 9, 2019 6:40:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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Dear Senator Karl Rhoads:

I write on behalf of Mr. Ronald G. Johnson's nomination to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I first met Mr. Johnson while he was a prosecutor in District Court of the First Circuit in the early 1990s, which is where all young prosecutors begin. It is also one of the most challenging places to start because of the fast pace, variety, and unpredictability of the cases. Yet in the time that Mr. Johnson practiced before me, he was always thoroughly prepared, extremely level-headed and fair.

Mr. Johnson was a quick study and very quickly became a supervisor, helping other young deputies to learn the ropes. Despite having a full caseload and managerial responsibilities, Mr. Johnson volunteered to assist the judiciary with the implementation of the decriminalization of traffic offenses in 1993. The judiciary had less than one year to: 1) create a civil traffic system for the less serious traffic violations, 2) train all judiciary personnel statewide, 3) create forms and traffic infraction schedules to replace the bail schedules, and 4) train all law enforcement agencies statewide.

Mr. Johnson assisted with the creation of the traffic infraction fee schedules. It was during this intense period of time, that I became even more familiar with Mr. Johnson. We met frequently and I observed his work ethic, legal knowledge, and his dedication to public service.

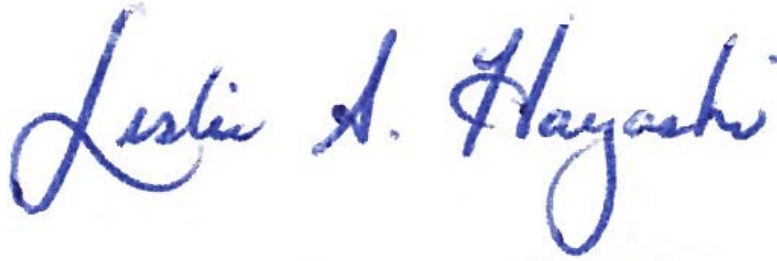
Creating the new infraction fine schedule was no small task. In fact, it was a mammoth one. First of all, each county had their own collection of bail schedules for both state and county offenses. The decriminalization of traffic offenses statute required statewide uniformity. The fines for the same statewide traffic offense varied greatly from county to county, with Oahu on the high end and Kauai on the low end. And then there was a matter of identifying the similar offenses in the respective county codes and matching them to the state statutes, a tedious and labor-intensive task. While I worked with the judges on reaching agreement, Mr. Johnson worked with his counterparts on the other islands. Securing agreement required patience, persuasion, and persistence.

I have followed Mr. Johnson's career as an assistant U.S. attorney and now as an attorney advisor to the Transportation Security Administration. He has continued to handle himself with the same professionalism and dedication of a true public servant.

In my experience, Mr. Johnson has demonstrated diligence, legal knowledge and ability, integrity, and a commitment and dedication to public service. He will be an outstanding circuit court judge.

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leslie A. Hayashi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'L' and a distinct 'A'.

J. Leslie A. Hayashi (Ret.)

Leslie A. Hayashi  
[leslieahayashi.com](http://leslieahayashi.com)

Testimony of the  
HAWAII STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
relating to the nomination of

**Ronald G. Johnson**  
**Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit (GM4)**

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Derek R. Kobayashi  
President, Hawaii State Bar Association

Hearing: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 016  
State Capitol

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association (HSBA) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the nomination of Ronald G. Johnson for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

The HSBA Board of Directors followed its multi-step process to inform the confirming authority of its findings on this appointment.

- Notification to the nominee of the HSBA appointment review process, which includes a questionnaire requesting educational credentials, legal and other professional work experiences, personal references; a resume; a copy of the JSC application; a form authorizing disclosure from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel of any disciplinary action; and an interview with the HSBA Board of Directors.
- Notification via electronic transmission to the HSBA membership of the appointment and a request for comments on the nominee.
- Appointment of a three-person review subcommittee of HSBA Board members by the President which serves as a neutral fact-finding body to: review documentation submitted by the nominee, contact references submitted by the nominee, review comments received from the HSBA membership, and conduct follow-up member contact for clarification, if necessary, for presentation to the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of a report by the three-person review subcommittee to the President, and subsequently to the entire Board.

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- Meeting of the President, the Executive Director, and the nominee prior to the scheduled interview of the nominee by the Board.
- Interview of the nominee by the HSBA Board.
- Deliberation of the HSBA Board.
- Submittal of the HSBA Board's recommendation to the confirming authority.

The HSBA President and the Executive Director met with Mr. Johnson on September 6, 2019 to discuss the subcommittee's findings. On September 9<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Johnson was interviewed by the HSBA Board of Directors in executive session.

Documentation submitted by Mr. Johnson was reviewed and the references listed were contacted for their personal opinions and observations. The comments and letters received from HSBA members reflected an affirmation of Mr. Johnson in all categories of the HSBA criteria which include:

- Integrity
- Diligence
- Legal knowledge and ability
- Professional experience
- Temperament
- Financial responsibility
- Public service
- Health
- Ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position

Beginning in 1990 at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu, and subsequent employment in the United States Attorney's Office, Ronald G. Johnson has gained a wealth of experience in the practice of criminal law. As a senior supervising attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. Johnson was responsible for the review of cases to determine if prosecution was warranted. This process involved a review of the facts presented and applicable law, discourse with investigative staff, and if prosecution was deemed appropriate, the appropriate charging of alleged crimes.

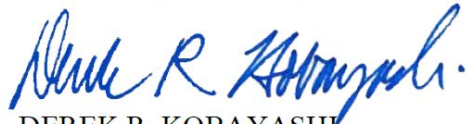
As an attorney assigned to handle complex white collar crime cases involving fraud and financial irregularities, the Nominee was required to become knowledgeable prosecuting cases involving complex facts and criminal law, as may be similarly present in complex civil cases and was required to prove such cases to a higher standard than civil cases; proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Mr. Johnson's tenure as a TSA Attorney Advisor for Pacific Rim Airports has provided the Nominee with the opportunity to transition to civil practice providing advice on collective bargaining, and human resources and civil penalty assessment issues.

Through his professional career and courtroom experience, the Nominee appreciates the need for judges to exhibit appropriate demeanor and to possess people skills, knowledge and compassion when dispensing justice.

After the interview of the nominee, which included dialogue and questioning relating to his background, experiences, and reasons for pursuing the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit, the Board of the Hawaii State Bar Association found Mr. Ronald G. Johnson to be **QUALIFIED** for the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments for consideration during the deliberations and decision making of our Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



DEREK R. KOBAYASHI

President, Hawaii State Bar Association

## ALVIN K. NISHIMURA

*Attorney at Law*

P.O. Box 4510  
Kaneohe, HI 96744-8510  
phone 808-256-0461 fax 808-888-7296  
email: aknishimuralaw@gmail.com

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September 6, 2019

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Nominee Ron Johnson to Circuit Court Judge.

Dear Senate,

I have known Mr. Johnson since law school where we both attended Willian S. Richardson School of Law. We got to know each other in class, social events, and extracurricular activities. Upon completion of law school Mr. Johnson went to work for the Prosecutors office, and then to the U.S. Attorney's office here in Honolulu. Since I worked in the area of defending indigent defendants in criminal cases, I dealt with Ron on a number of cases in State Court and Federal Court. Throughout my professional experience with Mr. Johnson, I can say that he was always willing to discuss matters and present his view of a case in a manner that was, complete, thorough and not demeaning to the defendants or attorneys, and was always willing to listen to the position of others. I know him to be hard working, efficient, compassionate and fair.

In every case that I had with Mr. Johnson, he was always above-board with regard to the evidence, and he was interested in a "just resolution" and not just a statistical conviction. His presentation of facts and the law was always intelligent and well thought out. I can state without reservation that Mr. Johnson has been one of the most fair-minded, even-handed, and pleasant, attorneys I have known. Mr. Johnson has an excellent reputation in the legal community and the community in general. He is a man of integrity and wisdom. Mr. Johnson's intelligence, character and experience will make him an excellent Judge. This State is fortunate to have Mr. Johnson as a selection to the bench and I strongly urge you to confirm his nomination.

Sincerely,

Alvin K. Nishimura

**From:** [Brook Hart](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** My Strong Support Of First Circuit Court Judicial Nominee Ronald G. Johnson  
**Date:** Saturday, September 7, 2019 11:59:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter To Governor David Ige.pdf](#)  
[E-Mail Of September 3, 2019.pdf](#)

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Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Hawaii Senate  
Committee on Judiciary  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Governor Ige's Nomination Of Ronald G. Johnson  
To Serve As A Judge Of The First Circuit Court

Dear Senator Rhoads, Senator Wakai, and All Other  
Members of the Hawaii Senate Committee on Judiciary:

On Tuesday, September 10, 2019, in Conference Room 016 of the State Capitol, you will be holding a hearing on Governor Ige's nomination of Ronald G. Johnson to serve as a Judge of the First Circuit Court. As my written testimony in strong support of Ron's confirmation, I submit the two attached documents: (1) my comprehensive three-page letter of February 13, 2018, to Governor David Ige, urging Governor Ige to nominate Ron to serve as a Judge of the First Circuit Court, which Governor Ige subsequently did; and (2) my e-mail of September 3, 2019, to the Hawaii State Bar Association, reiterating my support for Ron's nomination and addressing how in my opinion Ron more than fully satisfies the criteria used by the HSBA to evaluate judicial nominees.

Aloha,

Brook Hart

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Fellow, American Board of Criminal Lawyers ▪ Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers***

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Transmitted via <https://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/contact-the-governor>

February 13, 2018

The Honorable David Y. Ige  
Governor, State of Hawaii  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Assistant United States Attorney Ronald G. Johnson

Dear Governor Ige:

Pursuant to your press release of February 5, 2018, which seeks "public comment," Assistant United States Attorney Ronald G. Johnson is one of the attorneys whom you are considering for appointment as a Judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. This letter constitutes my strong recommendation in support of appointing Ron to that judicial position.

I have been an active member of the Hawaii bar since 1968. My law firm is based in Honolulu and specializes in criminal defense practice and constitutional law. Additionally, I serve as a Lecturer in Law, co-teaching the Hawaii Innocence Project seminars at the University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law. I have extensive personal experience practicing in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit (among other courts), the particular court to which Ron seeks appointment as a judge.

I have known Ron for many years, and I have worked closely with him (although on opposing sides) during his lengthy employment as a federal prosecutor. For example, I was one of the defense attorneys in the heavily publicized case involving Mexico's attempted extradition of bounty hunters Duane "Dog" Chapman, Leland Chapman and Tim Chapman, while Ron represented the United States government in that case.

I have always found Ron to be fair, willing to consider different viewpoints, a man of integrity, and an intelligent attorney who possesses extensive legal knowledge. In my experience, Ron also has the appropriate temperament and social skills to be a successful First Circuit Court judge.



Ron has been an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Hawaii since 1995, and has had a varied and well-balanced range of experience within that large office. He currently serves as Senior Litigation Counsel, with responsibilities that include training attorneys and legal support staff. He also serves within the Fraud and Financial Crimes Section, investigating and developing complex white-collar crime cases including those involving Ponzi schemes, tax evasion, cyber crime, identity theft, procurement fraud, health care fraud, wire fraud, mail fraud and bank fraud. Among his former positions, Ron was previously the Chief of the Major Crimes Section, where he supervised up to eighteen attorneys and six members of the support staff, investigating and prosecuting major crimes such as national security matters, firearms offenses and child exploitation. Additionally, Ron formerly served as the Chief of the Violent Crime Section, supervising up to eleven attorneys in the prosecution of offenses of violence, theft, robbery, and crimes committed on military installations and other federal property. Ron has received awards, letters of recognition and certificates of appreciation from various agencies and officials during his career as a federal prosecutor, including induction into the Hawaii Joint Police Association's Hall of Fame.

Prior to becoming a federal prosecutor, Ron worked as a City & County of Honolulu prosecutor from 1987 to 1995, including his service as the Director of the Misdemeanor Division and as the Chief of the DUI/Traffic Branch. Significantly, Ron has valuable "hands on" experience personally prosecuting felony cases in the First Circuit Court, including case investigation, motions practice, trial preparation, trial presentation, and sentencing.

Ron's education includes a Juris Doctor degree from the William S. Richardson School of Law and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from UH's College of Business Administration. Ron has been happily married since 1983 and has raised two successful adult sons. Notably, Ron stays in shape with running, swimming, marathons, triathlons and biathlons, so he would definitely possess the necessary energy and stamina to handle the demands of being a trial judge in the First Circuit Court.

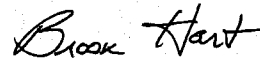
Finally, although much of Ron's legal experience has been as a federal prosecutor, that would not hinder him in properly understanding and applying the State of Hawaii's case law, statutory law and rules (as he did while serving for more than eight years as a City & County of Honolulu prosecutor). Various former federal prosecutors from the District of Hawaii currently serve (or previously served) with distinction as judges for State of Hawaii courts. They include our current Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald of the Hawaii Supreme Court, who was an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Hawaii from 1991 to 1997 and then from 1999 to 2003; soon-to-retire Chief Judge Craig H. Nakamura of the Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals, who served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Hawaii from 1986 to 2004; current First Circuit Court Judge Edward H. Kubo, Jr., who served as the United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii from 2001 to

2009, and prior to that was an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Hawaii for eleven years; and First Circuit Court Judge Steven S. Alm (now retired from the bench) -- the winner of the Hawaii Judiciary's "Jurist of the Year" award in 2010 and the Hawaii State Bar Association's "Golden Gavel" award in 2015 -- who served as the United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii from 1994 to 2001. Additionally, former State of Hawaii Attorney General Mark Bennett (who was recently nominated for appointment to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals) worked as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Hawaii from 1982 to 1990.

In light of all of the foregoing, I firmly endorse Ron Johnson's application for appointment to the bench of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I am confident that he will serve with distinction if he is selected for that position.

Very truly yours,

LAW OFFICES OF BROOK HART  
A Law Corporation

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brook Hart".

BROOK HART



Brook Hart <brookhartlaw@gmail.com>

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## Comments On First Circuit Court Judicial Nominee Ronald G. Johnson

1 message

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Brook Hart <brookhartlaw@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 3, 2019 at 12:20 AM

To: Hawaii State Bar Association <membercomments@hsba.org>

Dear Mr. Kobayashi:

In response to your e-mail of 10:08 a.m. on August 29, 2019, entitled "Comment on ICA and Circuit Court Nominees," I attach my comprehensive three-page letter of February 13, 2018, to Governor David Ige. That letter urged Governor Ige to nominate Ronald G. Johnson to serve as a Judge of the First Circuit Court, which Governor Ige subsequently did. To the extent that any of the specific criteria set forth in your e-mail may not be fully addressed in my attached letter to Governor Ige, I now offer the following additional comments about Ron.

I have always known Ron to be a lawyer of high "integrity" and a person of high "integrity." To the best of my knowledge, Ron has always exhibited commendable "diligence" as a lawyer, particularly as an Assistant United States Attorney. Ron's "legal knowledge and ability" are excellent. Ron has impressive "professional experience" in varied areas of the law. In my opinion, Ron would have a well-respected and positive "judicial temperament" if confirmed to serve as a Judge of the First Circuit Court. I have no knowledge of any issues pertinent to Ron's "financial responsibility." Ron has an impressive record of "public service." To the best of my knowledge, Ron is in very good "health." Ron's "ability to fulfill the responsibilities and duties of the position" of Judge of the First Circuit Court is, in my opinion, outstanding.

To summarize, I strongly support the confirmation of Ronald G. Johnson to serve as a Judge of the First Circuit Court.

Aloha,

Brook Hart

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Letter To Governor David Ige.pdf

238K

September 9, 2019

Senator Karl Rhoads  
Chair of the Committee on Judiciary  
VIA EMAIL

Re: GM4 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee RONALD G. JOHNSON

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads,

I am writing to strongly recommend Ronald G. Johnson for appointment to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have known Ron for over 13 years. On a daily basis, I have observed his diligence, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, temperament, public service, and health, all that will make him an outstanding judge.

As a prosecutor for over 30 years, Ron has tremendous experience in the courtroom. Ron was my supervisor for three years when I began at the United States Attorney's office in 2006. He was a patient and nurturing supervisor. Since then, he has been a mentor, colleague, and friend. I have seen Ron's strength as a leader and a consummate team player. Nothing is beneath him or above his head. Ron is someone who agents and other attorneys (including me, constantly) seek out for guidance because we know, big or small, simple or complex, he will always help. The office staff appreciated his demeanor and professionalism, as he is personable and treats everyone with respect. I have never seen Ron lose his temper or be rude. I have observed Ron's compassion and fairness in charging decisions and sentencing recommendations. Ron demonstrated his strong work ethic and intellect when successfully multitasking complex matters. When Ron left the United States Attorney's Office in April of 2019, his presence was sorely missed. Ron transitioned to administrative and civil law in his new position as an Attorney Advisor with the Transportation Security Administration's (Pacific Rim Airports) Office of General Counsel – Department of Homeland Security. This well-rounded background will be invaluable to him as a Circuit Court Judge.

Over the years, I have had the privilege of getting to know Ron on a personal level. From training for the marathon together, catching rides home, presenting at the U.H. Law School, and discussing our families, we have grown to be good friends. Therefore, I have no questions about Ron's integrity, high moral character, and financial responsibility. He is a very spiritual person who has a strong sense of family and community. Ron is an active member of his church and volunteers as a tutor for the Lawakua Kajukenbo Club. Ron is someone who always does the right thing especially when no one is looking. For example, Ron came to the aid of a motorist who got into a collision because of a medical condition. Ron made the area safe and tended to the motorist until paramedics arrived. He then assisted in loading the motorist in the ambulance. I also know that many years ago he saved a person's life by pulling the drowning and unresponsive swimmer from the ocean. Despite numerous attempts by his boss at the time to determine who the person was so Ron would be recognized, Ron politely declined. I, too, witnessed Ron lending a helping hand to a complete stranger while on a Saturday morning marathon training run. A young man was pushing his broken moped along Diamond Head road. This backed up traffic and caused a hazard as cars tried to get around the moped. As Ron stopped to help the young man, a large truck pulled up behind us to help. Serendipitously, it was Ron's older son, B.J., who had just finished surfing and was on his way home. Ron and B.J. lifted the moped into the back of B.J.'s truck and B.J. took the young man and his moped to the young man's house. This showed me two things about Ron: 1) he acts when it is the right thing to do – not for personal gain, and 2) he has instilled this in his sons. Ron's selfless nature is extraordinary.

Having known, learned from, and grown because of Ron, it is my privilege and pleasure to recommend him for appointment to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. Ron's time as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and a supervisor with the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office will make his transition back to State Court seamless. Ron will be an excellent jurist, and would serve the judiciary well. Most of all, he is a good person with a big heart. I have no doubt he possess all that is necessary to fulfill the responsibilities and duties required to be a Circuit Court judge.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Darren W.K. Ching

Darren W.K. Ching

# LATE

September 9, 2019

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads  
Chair of the Committee on Judiciary  
VIA EMAIL

RE: GM4- Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee RONALD G. JOHNSON

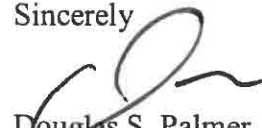
Dear Senator Rhoads:

I hereby submit this letter in support of consideration and confirmation of Ronald G. Johnson to the position of Circuit Judge for the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii.

I have known Mr. Johnson both personally and professionally for the past 25 years while I was employed as a senior special agent with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and later as a supervisory special agent. More specifically, I worked with Mr. Johnson in his capacity as an Assistant United States Attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office here in Honolulu.

Mr. Johnson is a highly qualified litigator and his personal and professional qualities are outstanding. He has the highest integrity and moral character and will render decisions based on thorough review and examination of all the facts. Mr. Johnson has always maintained a high level of integrity and fairness in all aspects of his career and personal life. Without any doubt or reservation, I fully recommend Mr. Johnson to the position of Circuit Judge and I am certain he will be an outstanding jurist.

Sincerely



Douglas S. Palmer  
Supervisory Special Agent (Ret.)  
Homeland Security Investigations

**From:** [Eric Yamamoto](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Judicial Nominee Ronald G. Johnson: Letter of Support  
**Date:** Saturday, September 7, 2019 3:04:56 AM

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September 7, 2019  
Senate Committee of the Judiciary  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Re: Letter of Support  
Nominee Ronald G. Johnson, First Circuit Court

Dear Senator Rhoads:

I am a Professor Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i. I am writing to strongly urge your committee's favorable action on the nomination of Ronald G. Johnson to the First Circuit Court, State of Hawai'i

Mr. Johnson was a law student when I started teaching at the Richardson Law School. During that period we interacted closely, and I have kept in contact with him these many years and followed his career as an Assistant United States Attorney. Mr. Johnson is a person of outstanding judgment, fairness and maturity. And he has exceptional courtroom experience as a federal prosecutor. He will, in my estimation, be a superb trial judge.

I teach Civil Procedure and Complex Litigation and have litigated and consulted on numerous cases in our Hawai'i courts (as well as in courts on the continental United States). In the past I have served on the Judicial Evaluation Committee (reviewing the performance of state judges). These experiences inform my assessment here. From the very beginning of our relationship Mr. Johnson impressed me as someone who could some day become a superb judge. And as I have kept tabs on his development as a lawyer and public servant that impression has grown into a strong conviction.

Mr. Johnson's intelligence, focus, even-handed approach to issues, capacity for seeing multiple perspectives and innate sense of fairness -- coupled with this extensive courtroom experience and his commitment to public service -- make him an outstanding choice for the bench. In my experience, he is a person who inspires confidence and trust.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage your Committee's favorable action on Mr. Johnson's nomination.

Sincerely,  
Eric K. Yamamoto  
Fred T. Korematsu Professor of Law and Social Justice  
William S. Richardson School of Law

# LATE

**From:** [Frank Okamura](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM4 Ronald G. Johnson, Gubernatorial Judicial Nominee  
**Date:** Monday, September 9, 2019 3:29:48 PM

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Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Rhoads,

I'm writing this letter in support of GM4 Ronald G. Johnson (hereafter referred to as RJ), Gubernatorial Judicial Nominee. I met RJ in 1995 after he started at the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Hawaii. I'm a retired criminal investigator for the Department of Homeland Security. We started as colleagues and eventually became close friends over the last 20 plus years.

RJ is a thoughtful, considerate, and devoted son, husband, father, and friend. The fruits of his goodness have resulted in a loving and committed marriage and the success of his two sons who have graduated from college and started careers in the workforce. RJ is always willing to help those in need – especially those less fortunate than him. He told me many times that his parents taught him good values while growing up in New York and raised him to be good Christian man. I was with RJ when he administered CPR to an unconscious elderly male at the beach that saved his life. RJ made sure that the male was fine and waited with him until the paramedics arrived. He's a special person who truly lives a life of service to others.

Through his over 30 years of experience at the Department of Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu and USAO, RJ has demonstrated his commitment to public service and the right judicial temperament to serve on the bench. He consistently makes decisions that are just and fair. Moreover, RJ has a great legal mind and has demonstrated time and again his ability to analyze complicated legal issues and apply the law appropriately.

RJ has the credentials, experience, and knowledge to be an excellent Circuit Court Judge. I hope the committee considers him for nomination.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Okamura



September 9, 2019

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
and Committee Members  
Committee on Judiciary  
State Capitol, Room 016  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: GM4  
Consideration and Confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of  
Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ronald G. Johnson; Testimony in Strong  
Support

Dear Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support of the nomination of Ronald G. Johnson to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i.

I have known Ron since high school and have known him throughout his legal career. Ron is an extremely dedicated and intelligent attorney. He possesses the right temperament to serve as a Judge and has the utmost integrity and excellent people skills – the qualities that make him an excellent choice for this appointment.

It was absolutely no surprise that Ron did so well in his legal career. Becoming a Judge in the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i, is an excellent next step for Ron and for the entire bar. I have no doubt that he will be an outstanding Judge; he will be fair, dedicated to the law, and use his compassion and people skills to do right by the parties that come before him.

I have full confidence in Ron's ability to make a difference from the bench. I strongly support Ron's appointment to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,



Holly T. Shikada

# LATE

## LAW OFFICE OF HOWARD K. K. LUKE

ATTORNEY AT LAW  
DAVIES PACIFIC CENTER  
SUITE 410  
841 BISHOP STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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September 9, 2019

Senator Karl A. Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street,  
Senate Judiciary Committee Room 204  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
*via email attachment to [JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDCtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov)*

**RE: Testimony in support of the nomination of Ronald G. Johnson (GM4)**

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Fellow Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Mr. Ronald G. Johnson to the position of Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

I have known Mr. Johnson since he was a deputy prosecuting attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. I continued to be acquainted with him after his transition to the United States Department of Justice as an Assistant United States Attorney.

In his entire career as an advocate for the governments of the State of Hawaii and the United States, he has distinguished himself as a fair, reasonable, and very capable and successful prosecutor. He has enjoyed a reputation of being completely ethical in discharging his professional duties. I have never heard any comment from either the offices where he was employed, the courts, or from defense counsel, of anything other than the highest fealty to the standards of professional conduct.

I respectfully request you confirm Mr. Johnson as a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit.

Respectfully submitted,



Howard K. K. Luke, Esq.

**From:** [Jason Pa](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** RONALD G. JOHNSON  
**Date:** Monday, September 9, 2019 9:59:36 AM

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Senator Karl Rhoads  
Chair of the Committee on Judiciary  
VIA EMAIL

RE: GM4-Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit,  
State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee RONALD G. JOHNSON

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads,

Ron would make a great judge. I have worked with him for more than 15 years. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Jason Pa  
DEA Intel Analyst

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

The William S. Richardson School of Law  
Professor John Barkai

Sept. 7, 2019

Re: Judicial appointment of Ronald Johnson

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

I very strongly support the confirmation of Ron Johnson as a judge of the Circuit Court.

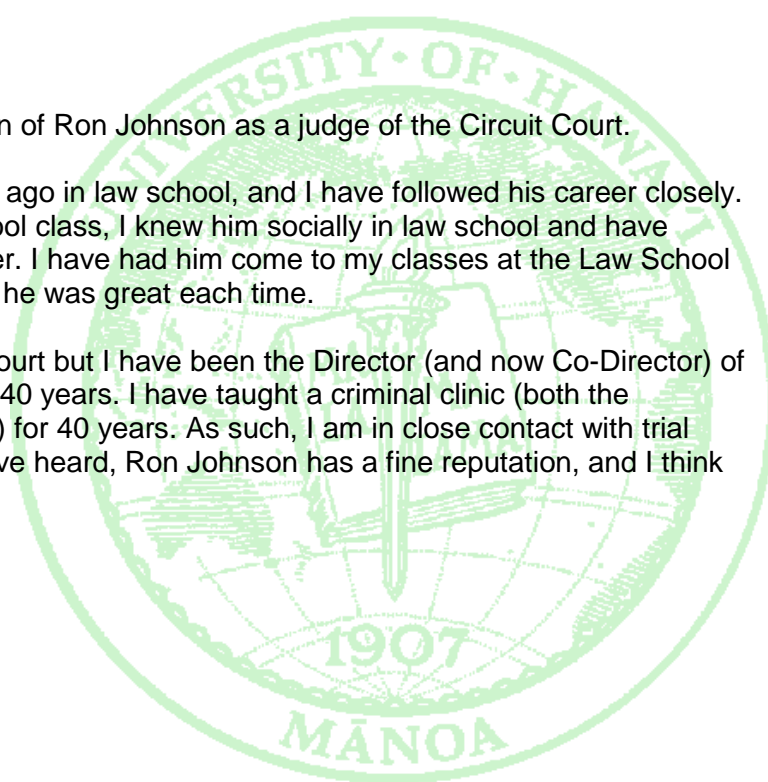
Ron was one of my students 30 years ago in law school, and I have followed his career closely. Because he was in my wife's law school class, I knew him socially in law school and have stayed in touch with him and his career. I have had him come to my classes at the Law School as a guest lecturer several times, and he was great each time.

As an academic, I do not practice in court but I have been the Director (and now Co-Director) of the UH Clinical Law Program for over 40 years. I have taught a criminal clinic (both the Prosecution Clinic and Defense Clinic) for 40 years. As such, I am in close contact with trial lawyers and judges. From all that I have heard, Ron Johnson has a fine reputation, and I think he would make an excellent judge.

Sincerely



John Barkai  
Professor of Law



# LATE

September 9, 2019

Senator Karl Rhoads  
Chair of the Committee on Judiciary  
VIA EMAIL

Re: GM4 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee RONALD G. JOHNSON

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads,

My name is Kevin Shimoda. In May 2016, I retired as a Special Agent with the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI), in Honolulu, HI. I served the federal government for 33 years, which included four years of active duty with the Army. I spent approximately 21 years with IRS-CI; 4 years with the Department of the Interior, Office of Inspector General; and 4 ½ years with U.S. Postal Service, Office of Inspector General. During my career, I had the fortune of working with outstanding people – individuals who had the highest standards in service to God, country, family and friends. Of this special group, there are a few who stand out above the rest and Ron Johnson is one of them.

I first met Ron approximately 25 years ago. I was a young and inexperienced Special Agent for IRS-CI and Ron was an Assistant U.S. Attorney who was also new on the job. Now, we are two seasoned veterans of many investigations and prosecutions and on the personal side, we have grown together with our families. I have tremendous respect for Ron as a friend, family man and prosecutor. I am taking this opportunity to say a few things about Ron in the hope that it will help convince you that he is the right person for State judgeship.

Ron is kind, humble, respectful and thoughtful. He is highly intelligent with good reasoning. His temperament is calming, his manner of speech captures your attention, and his expression of thought is convincing. Ron is a fair, sincere and caring man. When you walk away after having a conversation with him, whether it's about a prosecution case or about your personal pursuits and family affairs, you are touched by his demeanor and words.

On the professional side, I had the fortune of working with him. His character, strong work ethic, and pursuit for justice, made him one of the best, if not the best, Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Honolulu office. Ron worked with me as a partnership and yet showed independency and leadership when his role called for it.

>

> With Ron, what you see and hear from him is what you get. He walks the walk. There are no hidden agendas for him; his guiding light is his integrity and caring for the fellow man. I am excited that Ron has an opportunity to serve the public in a greater capacity because I am certain he will do well! Your Honor, please allow Ron to serve the public as a State Judge. I'm confident that you and others will see what I have been seeing for the past 20 plus years!

>

> Thank you for your time and consideration.

>

> Kevin J. Shimoda

> Investigator, Internal Programs

> Corporate Security

> Safety, Security & Compliance  
> 3375 Koapaka Street, Suite G350  
> Honolulu, HI 96819  
> Desk: (808) 838-5432  
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**From:** [Lian A](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of GM4 Ronald G. Johnson, Judicial Nominee  
**Date:** Saturday, September 7, 2019 8:55:38 PM

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Dear Senator Rhoads,

I respectfully submit the following testimony in support of Ronald G. Johnson's nomination to as Circuit Judge, Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I have had the honor and privilege of Mr. Johnson's acquaintance for the past 13 years. We first met in 2006 when I started working at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Hawaii as a criminal paralegal in the Drug and Organized Crime Section. At the time, Mr. Johnson was the Chief of the Major Crimes Section. His office was just a few doors away from mine and although he was a very busy supervisor, he was never too busy to stop and say "hello" or ask how my family and I were doing. I was very appreciative of Mr. Johnson's genuine warmth and friendliness because although he was not my supervisor, he was always happy to answer any questions that I had about office practices or substantive criminal matters.

Sitting in such close proximity to Mr. Johnson for over 5 years, I was able to observe the manner in which he interacted with a wide range of individuals, including his supervisors, other Assistant U.S. Attorneys, support staff, law enforcement agents, and defense counsel. Without exception, Mr. Johnson treated everyone with professionalism and courtesy. Mr. Johnson never lost his temper or treated anyone rudely or with disrespect. Given Mr. Johnson's knowledge of both state and federal law, wealth of experience, and approachable demeanor, other Assistant U.S. Attorneys frequently sought his assistance and advice. It was obvious that he was well-respected by both his supervisors and his peers.

I was fortunate enough to have been able to work very closely with Mr. Johnson on a large, complex, and well-defended criminal case that involved multiple defendants and criminal charges that spanned several years. The case had been ongoing for many years, had been worked on at different times by different Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and involved several significant legal and procedural problems. Mr. Johnson formulated a comprehensive plan to address the various problems plaguing the case. His attention to detail, advocacy skills, and leadership resulted in the government achieving a successful outcome and averting what would have been a lengthy and difficult trial. This instance was not the first, and certainly not the last, time that Mr. Johnson was specifically assigned to assume the lead on difficult or problematic cases. In every instance, and despite an already substantial workload, Mr. Johnson readily accepted the new assignments, worked diligently, and successfully resolved the cases in a fair and timely manner.

In 2013, I was promoted to the position of Administrative Officer at the U.S. Attorney's Office. Mr. Johnson and I would frequently meet to discuss administrative and managerial matters such as travel authorizations and leave or pay issues. I was not



surprised to find that Mr. Johnson was ever-mindful of Department of Justice requirements and policies and sought to ensure that he was always in compliance with office policies and procedures. Whenever I set administrative deadlines for the office, Mr. Johnson was, without fail, one of the first attorneys to respond and comply.

In my capacity as Administrative Officer, I had the privilege of working very closely with Mr. Johnson on several serious and sensitive employee relations matters. These interactions with Mr. Johnson served to further confirm the impressions I had already formed about him. He is truly an outstanding person of the highest moral character. He is brave and is not afraid to stand up for others and for what he thinks is right, even if it means putting himself in difficult positions. He is honest, trustworthy, and reliable and always conducts himself with the utmost humility, compassion, and respect.

In September 2015, I left the U.S. Attorney's Office. While I unfortunately do not get to see Mr. Johnson as regularly as I did while working at the U.S. Attorney's Office, we continue to work together and remain close personal friends. Having worked with Mr. Johnson in several different professional capacities and after getting to know him personally, I am firmly certain that Mr. Johnson would be an outstanding judge.

Mr. Johnson has years of experience litigating in both federal and state courts in the State of Hawaii. His knowledge of the law; legal research, writing, and advocacy skills; judgment; and decisiveness are exceptional. Mr. Johnson's legal knowledge and skills and exceptional leadership have been widely recognized, as evidenced by the many supervisory positions Mr. Johnson has held, both at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu, and at the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Not only is Mr. Johnson a skilled attorney, he is tremendously dedicated to his family and the local community. Over the past several years, Mr. Johnson helped tirelessly and selflessly care for his late mother and for his father-in-law, who both needed increasing assistance and support. Despite the physical, emotional, and financial strain that this undoubtedly brought, it did not affect Mr. Johnson's work performance, nor was it obvious that he was dealing with anything as difficult as he was. Had he not told me about his family situation, I would have never known that anything was out of the ordinary.

Mr. Johnson and his wife are active supporters of their two sons' personal and professional development. When their sons were still in high school, Mr. Johnson and his wife were proud spectators at numerous swim meets, water polo games, and countless other school activities. Mr. Johnson regularly volunteered at his sons' high school and was frequently asked to address the entire graduating class about the dangers of social media and various other legal issues that the soon-to-be graduates would be facing as they entered college. In addition, Mr. Johnson has, and continues to, mentor and advise his sons and their friends on various academic, career, and life decisions.



I believe that Mr. Johnson's commitment to, and support from, his family are what keep him grounded and humble. It is because of this that his ability to treat everyone with fairness and respect is effortless. Mr. Johnson is caring, compassionate, and one of the hardest workers I know. I truly admire him and hold him in the highest regard.

Recently, an unprecedented number of high ranking leaders, public officials, and organizations have been investigated, and some prosecuted, for public corruption and other crimes. As a result, the people of the State of Hawaii have understandably lost faith in our leadership at all levels and in government, as a whole. It is at times like these that we most need someone like Mr. Johnson serving as a Circuit Judge. Mr. Johnson possesses a rare combination of sharp legal acumen, fairness, and compassion and always holds himself to the highest standards of ethical behavior. He has dedicated his entire career to ensuring that our laws are upheld and that justice is served. I have no doubt that he would continue to do so in the capacity as Circuit Judge. With all due deference and respect, I can think of no one better qualified or well-suited to serve as a Circuit Judge.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you very much for your consideration of the above comments.

Lian A. Abernathy

**From:** [Loretta Sheehan](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Loretta Sheehan](#)  
**Subject:** Nominee Ronald Johnson to the First Circuit Court  
**Date:** Saturday, September 7, 2019 12:26:57 PM

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To the Honorable Senator Rhoads and Committee Members:

Please accept my heartfelt support for Ronald Johnson for the position of Judge of the Circuit Court, First Circuit, State of Hawaii. I commend Ron Johnson to the bench due to his intelligence, compassion, drive and ethics.

Ron and I were colleagues, first at the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, then at the U.S. Attorney's Office. We worked together closely for much of that time—24 years in all. In that time, I always admired Ron's work ethic and diligence. He consistently attacked each new case, each new issue, as a challenge. When he didn't know the answer to a problem, he simply worked until he had figured out the solution. Moreover, Ron was always the first to volunteer to lead projects requiring a great deal of coordination and collaboration between federal agencies, the Honolulu Police Department and the military. His energy for his work seemed boundless. I'm sure that he will bring the same brio to the bench.

I also admired his compassion. Similar to a jurist, the role of prosecuting attorney is one that carries a great deal of authority. Ron always understood that prosecutions were not to be entered lightly, and that people's lives were at stake. Regardless of what was alleged, Ron treated everyone with courtesy and respect—no matter what. He consistently displayed empathy to those damaged by crime—including perpetrators themselves. Ron was someone who successfully balanced the mission of enforcing the law and protecting the public with a keen understanding of the pathways to criminality. He understood that criminality developed in fertile soil of hopelessness and rage.

Finally, I encourage your approval of the nomination because Ron is one of the most ethical people I know. His upbringing and his faith simply does not allow otherwise. I am aware of situations during which he was pressured to take action that appeared questionable, and he simply refused to do it. We need that kind of moral courage on the bench.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

**From:** [Lyle S. Hosoda](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Recommendation for Ronald Johnson to be Circuit Court Judge  
**Date:** Saturday, September 7, 2019 7:51:48 AM

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Dear Senators:

This is my wholehearted recommendation for Ronald Johnson to be a First Circuit Court Judge. I have known Mr. Johnson since he started law school. As a second year law student, I was assigned to be Mr. Johnson's mentor when he first got into law school. Ever since our first of many meetings back then until 35 years later today, Mr. Johnson has demonstrated integrity and commitment to the law and our community, legal, Hawaii and the U.S.

I have remained in touch and followed his career. Through the years, we have consulted with one another on various legal matters, and maintained a personal friendship as well. Healthwise, Mr. Johnson and his entire family are committed to regular and vigorous exercise. I know few stronger both mentally and physically.

He is competent, knows the law and applies the facts in a very reasoned and methodical manner. He has good judgment and is very ethical. He is also very hard working and committed. His long time career at the US attorneys office is remarkable and speaks about his commitment, passion and team play. I have never heard anyone say a bad word about him. He is fair in all respects. He clearly has the right judicial temperament for the job.

I would very much like to attend the hearing on September 10<sup>th</sup> to give testimony and show support, but unfortunately unless there is a change, I will be in trial on that day. However, I am available should you have any questions or wish to discuss Mr. Johnson further.

Aloha, Lyle

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Mark Yuen  
1709 Wilhelmina Rise  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816  
Email: [markyuen14@hotmail.com](mailto:markyuen14@hotmail.com)

The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 4: Mr. Ronald G. Johnson's Confirmation Hearing (September 10, 2019 at 10:00 A.M.)

Chairman Rhoads and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for your time and for allowing me to write my comments supporting Mr. Ronald G. Johnson's nomination as a judge of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit. I have been a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for over twenty years and have had numerous dealings with Mr. Johnson for many years when Mr. Johnson was at the United States Attorney's Office. Following the implementation of Project Safe Neighborhood in 2001 by the United States Department of Justice, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu and the United States Attorney's Office, Hawai'i District began to work closely together to reduce violent crimes especially those involving firearms. During that time, Mr. Johnson was essentially the main "go-to" person with whom my section worked to discuss matters of jurisdiction involving crimes occurring in the City and County of Honolulu. I have gotten to know him better throughout the years in my dealings with the United States Attorney's Office and I have maintained contact with him after he went to the Transportation Security Administration.

I wholeheartedly support Mr. Johnson's nomination as a Circuit Court judge because I believe that Mr. Johnson will be an outstanding judge. I feel this way for several reasons. First of all, Mr. Johnson is very much a true professional. He has always been extremely respectful and courteous in all situations. I can see why he was the main point person in dealing with the local prosecutors because he always acts with dignity and is patient beyond belief.

Secondly, Mr. Johnson is very humble. In my opinion, the worse thing a judge can be is arrogant and condescending. Mr. Johnson is absolutely the opposite of those two words. He is always polite and from my dealings with him, I believe that he very much follows the commandment of treating others as he would himself.

Thirdly, Mr. Johnson has a lot of court room experience. Mr. Johnson was one of the top Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, City and County of Honolulu, when the Honorable Steven S. Alm brought him over to the United States Attorney's Office. There, he rose up the ranks throughout the years and became a high ranking supervisor. As such, it is clear that Mr. Johnson has the requisite courtroom knowledge to apply the law to real court room situations.

While I recognize that Mr. Johnson has not practiced in Hawai'i State court for a while, I know personally that he is extremely familiar with State law. We have spoken on the phone on many occasions regarding State law and he is very well-versed with the State statutes and with the magnitude of differences between the laws of the State of Hawai'i and the laws of Federal government. In fact, last year, when Mr. Johnson was with the United States Attorney's Office, I attended a training session in which he aptly and intelligently discussed the differences in search and seizure law between the State of Hawai'i and the Federal government.

Lastly, it is my opinion that Mr. Johnson has the perfect judicial temperament to be an effective judge and communicator. As I already noted above, Mr. Johnson is professional, patient and humble. He is also a very pleasant person. I therefore believe his personality will suit him well as a judge.

In summary, Mr. Johnson is an outstanding nominee as a Circuit Court judge. He possesses all of the essential qualities of a judge of which our community can be proud.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Yuen

**From:** [Matt Levi](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Ron Johnson  
**Date:** Saturday, September 7, 2019 12:10:45 PM

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Dear Senator Rhoads,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Ron Johnson to a Circuit Court judgeship. I have know Ron for many years. He is honest, and possesses the temperament and leadership abilities to be an outstanding jurist.

Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully, Matt Levi

**From:** [Michael Healy](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** In support of Ronald G. Johnson, Judicial Nominee  
**Date:** Saturday, September 7, 2019 5:37:51 PM

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Aloha Senator Rhoads,

Please allow me to submit the following testimony in support of Ronald G. Johnson, Judicial Nominee. I completely and wholeheartedly recommend Ronald “Ron” G. Johnson as a judicial nominee. I first met Ron in 1985, when I entered the William S. Richardson School of Law a first-year student. Ron agree to serve as my “big brother” in law school, which entailed mentoring me during my first and second years of law school. Ron provided an invaluable mentoring service. I am truly grateful for all the assistance Ron provided to me. In addition to being my big brother, Ron and I played together on the Law School softball team for two years. Ron was our team coach and captain. Not only is Ron a gifted athlete but he was a natural leader who was liked and respected by everyone on our team and throughout the lawyer’s softball league.

After law school, Ron and I would see each other in the District and Circuit Courts, as he was working at the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and I was working as a Deputy Public Defender. Ron had a reputation for being an excellent and fair trial attorney. Ron became a supervisor at the Prosecutor's Office and I would see Ron mentoring newly hired Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys in trial. I have no doubt Ron served as an excellent mentor to incoming Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys learn trial skills. Ron later became a Deputy United States Attorney, where he continues to maintain the highest level of professionalism.

Since the very first time I met Ron, he demonstrated great likeability, integrity, and diligence. Ron carries himself with the highest level of moral character in every aspect of his life. I have no hesitation whatsoever in recommending Ron as a Judicial Nominee. I believe Ron possesses the all the qualities necessary to be a good judge; he is intelligent, compassionate, fair, patient, even tempered, hard-working, and honest. Ron is also a wonderful family man. I consider Ron a friend. Ron has a vast amount of trial experience in both the Federal and State Courts. There is no question that Ron would serve our community well and be an outstanding Judge.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of Ronald G. Johnson. Should you have any questions or would like any additional information and or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 525-8584 or by email at “[honolululawyer@outlook.com](mailto:honolululawyer@outlook.com)”.

Respectfully yours,

Michael P. Healy

Michael P. Healy, Esq.  
[honolululawyer@outlook.com](mailto:honolululawyer@outlook.com) / (808) 525-8584

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September 9, 2019

The Honorable Karl Rhoads  
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Circuit Court Nomination of **Ronald Johnson**  
Confirmation Hearing: September 10, 2019

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

It is my pleasure to fully support the nomination of **Ronald Johnson** to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

I have known Ron, both professionally and personally, for over 30 years. Ron possesses all the qualities and characteristics that we would all like to see in a judge. He is independent, pleasant, even-tempered, understanding, sincere, compassionate, fair, and always gives others the opportunity to express their points of view. Additionally, his character and integrity are unquestionable.

There is no doubt that he is preeminently qualified to serve our state as a Circuit Court judge. He is an accomplished skilled attorney, having served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and as a deputy prosecuting attorney.

His willingness to serve this community at the prosecutor's office and with the Federal Government demonstrates his commitment to public service and to this community.

I respectfully urge the Judiciary Committee to recommend Ron's nomination to the Senate.

Respectfully,

RANDAL YOSHIDA

**From:** [randall.kaya@ubs.com](mailto:randall.kaya@ubs.com)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Ronald G. Johnson, Judicial Nominee  
**Date:** Saturday, September 7, 2019 11:58:09 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[disclaim.txt](#)

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Dear Senator Rhoads

I'd like to ask for your favorable support of Ronald Johnson, judicial nominee.

I have known Ron for 25 to 30 years. We attend the same church and our children attended the same school. Without reservation I highly recommend Ron due to his character and diligence. He will undoubtedly make you and I proud someday.

Thanks for your favorable consideration!

*Randy*

**Randall Kaya, CIMA**  
First Vice President  
Institutional Consultant  
<http://www.ubs.com/fa/randallkaya>



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**From:** [rcbond@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:rcbond@hawaii.rr.com)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support of GM4 Ronald G. Johnson, Judicial Nominee  
**Date:** Saturday, September 7, 2019 12:28:18 PM

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September 7, 2019

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

My name is Mr. Robin Bond and I want to make a public comment in support of GM4 Ronald G. Johnson, Judicial Nominee for a vacancy of Judge, Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

On the morning of November 21, 2015 I had a serious stroke in Hawaii Kai while driving on Keahole Street. The stroke resulted in me having an accident with an on-coming vehicle. Mr. Johnson was the first person to assist me by parking his truck so that no one would make further contact with me. He jumped out of his truck and raced back to keep me from exiting my car, called for assistance and stayed with me until a nurse and other officials arrived to take control.

The effort of a complete stranger kept me safe in a heavy traffic area and made it possible for the emergency vehicle to transport me to the hospital. My family has lived in Hawaii since 1949 and been involved in many emergency situations. Having gone through my first serious problem I can see the importance of good Samaritans and the value of people that are not afraid to help others. Mr. Johnson is an excellent example of this.

Even though my experience with Mr. Johnson is somewhat limited, I am very impressed with his leadership, ability to think quickly and make timely decisions, especially ones that helped save my life. Having dealt with other judges in my life in Hawaii I feel that he will make an excellent Judge and be an asset on your staff.

Thank you for giving me a chance to provide a comment in support of Mr. Ronald Johnson.

Sincerely, Robin Bond

7289 Ninini Place  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
(808) 224-5522

September 9, 2019

Senator Karl Rhoads  
Chair of Committee on Judiciary  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 209  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Hearing Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2019, Committee on Judiciary  
GM4 – Gubernatorial Nominee Ronald G. Johnson for the Position of  
Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit

Dear Chairperson Rhoads:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this testimony in strong support of the nomination of Ronald G. Johnson to serve as a Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit. I am an attorney licensed to practice in the State of Hawai'i, and I am writing this letter in my personal capacity as a bar member and private citizen of the State of Hawai'i.

I had the pleasure of working closely with Mr. Johnson when he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney ("AUSA") at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Hawai'i ("USAO"). I have known Mr. Johnson for several years, and I believe he has the skills, work ethic, and personal character necessary to be a Circuit Court Judge.

Mr. Johnson is extremely knowledgeable of all aspects of trial proceedings. He has spent his career primarily as a prosecutor and, as a result, he has spent countless hours in the courtroom. In January 2017, I joined the USAO as an AUSA. At that time, Mr. Johnson was serving as the USAO's Senior Litigation Counsel. During a series of training sessions led by Mr. Johnson, I greatly benefited from his depth and breadth of knowledge. He covered both procedural rules and substantive areas of the law, and displayed a genuine desire to teach and mentor. His strong communication and interpersonal skills allow him to convey complex information in an accessible manner—an important attribute for a Circuit Court Judge.

In addition, Mr. Johnson has a strong work ethic and personal character. When Mr. Johnson became the Co-Chief of the Violent Crime and Drug Section of the USAO in 2018, he worked hard to balance multiple responsibilities: supervising other AUSAs, working closely with state and federal law enforcement partners, and managing his own caseload. Despite these responsibilities, he always made himself available to help answer questions from more junior colleagues.

It is my belief that the people of Hawai'i would greatly benefit by having Mr. Johnson serve as a judge on the Circuit Court of the First Circuit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sara D. Ayabe

**From:** [Shanlyn A.S. Park](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** In support of GM4 Ronald G. Johnson, Judicial Nominee  
**Date:** Sunday, September 8, 2019 3:14:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Senator Karl Rhoads and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

As a Federal Public Defender, I have spent the better part of two decades as opposing counsel to Ron Johnson. Even after spending all those years arguing against him, I can wholeheartedly, and without hesitation, recommend Ron for the position of Circuit Court Judge. He is smart, controlled and fair, in other words, all of the traits you would want on the bench. Throughout his years of practice, he has acquired the legal acumen essential for the bench, but further to his professional experience, he is a person with close ties to the community at large, which allows him to be fluent in the intricacies of Hawai'i's culture. This will allow everyone in his courtroom; plaintiff, defendant or jury member, to have the opportunity to be clearly understood and communicated to.

I thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Shanlyn Park



**Shanlyn A.S. Park**  
Partner

**McCorriston Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP**  
Five Waterfront Plaza, 4th Floor  
500 Ala Moana Boulevard  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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**From:** [Tamara Montgomery](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM4 Ronald G. Johnson, Judicial Nominee  
**Date:** Sunday, September 8, 2019 8:49:18 AM

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September 8, 2019

**Letter of Support for GM4 Ronald G. Johnson Judicial Nominee**

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Dr. Tamara Montgomery, Professor Emeritus, UH Manoa

This letter is in support of Ronald G. Johnson's judicial nomination. Please note, I am not involved in any way with the court system. I am a retired professor from the University of Hawaii in Manoa where for 40 years I was Director of the graduate program in Youth Theatre.

I have known Ron for 27 years. During 15 of those years our families lived next to each other in a duplex house in Kalama Valley. My comments here reflect those years of friendship. You cannot live next to someone for 15 years without getting to know someone personally. On a personal level, his wife, Lisa, is a great support and mother to their children. I was there when their two boys were born and watched them grow into fine young men always guided with integrity by their parents. Any decisions we had to make with regards to our mutually chaired property were always pleasant, fair and considerate of the other person's needs and values. I thought he was the best neighbor anyone could wish for.

Ron never discussed his cases with me which I thought was reflective of his sense of responsibility and respect for confidentiality. I can say without hesitation that Ron is a man of the upmost integrity. He is straight forward, honest, sensitive to people and situations, and capable of making unbiased decisions. Perhaps the highest compliment I could pay him is to say that if I ever had to come before him in his capacity as a judge, I would be confident that whatever decision he made would be based on a fair and honest interpretation of the law.

In every way he represents all that I, as a citizen, would expect to have in the people who make up our judicial system.

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Visit my website at [Dr. Tamara Montgomery](#)  
For my children's books visit [Children's Books](#)



TOMMY WATERS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

# LATE

The Honorable Karl Rhoads  
Senate District 13  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Ron Johnson, Circuit Court Judge

Dear Chair Rhoads and JDC Committee Members:

I am writing to support the Confirmation of Ron Johnson, Esq. for the Circuit Court Judgeship.

I know Mr. Johnson as a strong advocate for the people of the City and County of Honolulu, and State of Hawaii. He is very a very experienced, hard working, compassionate, dedicated public servant, and attorney. I have personally handled cases with Mr. Johnson, he was always well versed in the law, prepared, courteous and well reasoned.

Please feel free to call upon me if you have any questions or concerns.

Aloha,



Tommy Waters Esq.

**From:** [Victor J. Bakke](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** In support of GM4 Ronald G. Johnson, Judicial Nominee  
**Date:** Saturday, September 7, 2019 2:38:46 PM

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This letter is In support of GM4 Ronald G. Johnson, Judicial Nominee.

My name is Victor Bakke and I have been practicing criminal law since 1993 as both a Deputy Prosecutor for the City and County of Honolulu (1993-2000) and as a criminal defense lawyer in private practice (2000 - present).

During that time I have appeared in the Hawaii State, federal and military courts literally thousands of times and have appeared in front of an unknown number of judges. I also have served as a law clerk on both the Hawaii Supreme Court and the first Circuit Court and as a judicial extern in Federal Court.

Accordingly, I feel that I am well qualified to comment upon Mr. Johnson's qualifications to become an honored member of the judiciary of the state of Hawaii

Fist of all, my relationship with Mr. Johnson is purely professional and we do not socialize outside of work. Having said that, I have known Mr. Johnson since 1993 when I started work as a deputy prosecuting attorney for the city and County of Honolulu. Shortly thereafter he was my immediate supervisor.

Accordingly I had the opportunity to work directly with him and under him and to observe the outstanding manner in which he conducted himself and managed others in the office.

Since leaving the prosecutor's office in 2000, I have had several cases involving Mr. Johnson as opposing counsel as an Assistant United States Attorney and myself as a criminal defense attorney.

I think that it is only as opposing counsel that you can truly evaluate the ethical and overall character of a lawyer. During my adversarial experiences with Mr. Johnson, he was always exceptionally professional and reasonable and an absolute pleasure to work both with and against.

I'm sum, I have worked alongside him and for him and I look forward to appearing before him as a judge. His temperament and knowledge of the law are excellent and I strongly recommend him for the bench.

Sincerely,  
Victor J. Bakke, Esq.  
Law Office of Victor Bakke  
700 Bishop St., Ste. 2100  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Office: (808) 369-8170  
Cell: (808) 349-9757  
Web: [ArrestedHawaii.com](#)



# LATE

**From:** [Todd Inouye](#)  
**To:** [JDCTestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Ronald G. Johnson  
**Date:** Monday, September 9, 2019 5:48:26 PM

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Senator Karl Rhoads  
Chair of the Committee on Judiciary

VIA EMAIL

Re: GM4 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, State of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee RONALD G. JOHNSON

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads,

I have known Ronald G. Johnson for over 20 years during my time as a police officer with the Honolulu Police Department as he was a deputy prosecutor for the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. I have also had the pleasure and honor to work with him as an Assistant United States Attorney with the United States Attorney's Office in the District of Hawaii.

Mr. Johnson has always maintained the highest integrity and was always considered a fair prosecutor. He will be an asset to the First Circuit Court as a judge and will continue to make his decisions in the interest of justice. His experience as a prosecutor, as well as his service to the citizens of our state will greatly benefit our community.

I hope you will consider Mr. Johnson as a highly qualified candidate as a First Circuit Court judge.

Sincerely,  
Wesley Wong  
(808) 295-4118