

GET Committee

From: Mimi DesJardins <mimidesjardins808@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2019 5:36 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Testimony in support of Patrick K. Wong (GET 1(2))
Attachments: letter of support for Patrick K. Wong.docx

Please accept the attached testimony in support of Acting Corporation Counsel Patrick K. Wong.

Thank you,

Mimi DesJardins

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Mimi DesJardins
P.O. Box 331
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January 21, 2019

GET Committee Chair Mike Molina
Maui County Council

Re: GET-1(2) Appointment of Patrick K. Wong as Corporation Counsel

Dear Chair Molina and members of the GET Committee:

I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Patrick K. Wong as Corporation Counsel for the County of Maui.

I have been a deputy in the Department of the Corporation Counsel since January, 2018. Prior to that I was a deputy corporation counsel from 1996-1997. I have known Pat professionally for about 15 years.

Pat is well respected by other members of the legal community and I know he has an excellent working relationship with members of the bar. Under his leadership during the past 8 years, the department has earned a reputation of providing high-quality, sound, and well-respected legal advice to the County. Morale within the department is excellent, which I attribute to Pat's unique ability to manage both staff and attorneys in our office.

The other thing I like about working with Pat is his absolute fairness and his unique ability to collaborate. He never speaks ill of anyone and he does not judge others, even if he disagrees with them. This a rare quality in a leader. He demands absolute professionalism from his staff, and he receives it in return because he leads us by his own example.

I encourage each of you to take the time to reach out to staff at this department and ask them what their experience has been under Pat's leadership. As clients, you make the call whether to accept the legal counsel this department provides you. However, I firmly believe it is in the County's best interest to obtain legal advice that comes from an environment where everyone is treated fairly, and where opinions are openly expressed and respected. Pat certainly encourages this productive collaboration from all of us, which in turn, benefits the County as a whole.

Thank you for your time,

Mimi Desjardins