

GET Committee

From: Mimi DesJardins <mimidesjardins808@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2019 6:51 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: GET-1(2) Moana Lutey
Attachments: letter for Moana.pdf

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Mimi DesJardins
P.O. Box 331
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May 1, 2019

Re: GET-1(2) Appointment of Moana M. Lutey as Corporation Counsel

Dear Members of the Maui County Council:

I am submitting this written testimony in strong support of Moana M. Lutey as Corporation County for the County of Maui. I am a Deputy Corporation Counsel and work with Ms. Lutey, but I am offering this testimony as an individual.

I have known Ms. Lutey since the early 1990's when she was a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and I was a Deputy Public Defender. Ms. Lutey and I were often involved in cases from opposite sides. Ms. Lutey was not an attorney to be taken lightly. Although she possessed, and still does, all the character traits of a professional, friendly and cooperative opposing counsel, she was also one of the most aggressive supporters and defenders of her client that I came across. But she didn't want to win for the sake of winning. She understood her role was to seek justice and to uncover the truth, and she always tried cases with those goals in mind. I had enormous respect for her back then, and I appreciated that she could also be open to settling cases when to do so was in her client's best interest.

When Ms. Lutey was hired as a Deputy Corporation Counsel, word on the street was that the County wasn't "giving away the store" any longer. Although our paths did not cross as often as they did when we were trying cases in the same courtroom, I read about her cases in the paper, and I heard from attorneys who opposed her in the Second Circuit and the Federal Courts, that she was a diligent, aggressive, and very worthy opponent. But still, they also commented on her even-keeled demeanor, her approachability in terms of settlement, and the fact that she was a friendly, professional, and open-minded attorney.

If confirmed, Ms. Lutey would be the first female Corporation Counsel in the history of Maui County. Although this would be a great advancement for women in general, it is also rather pathetic when you think about it. Why is it so difficult for women to be in leadership roles in this County? Although it would be nice if we didn't have to discuss a person's gender when considering him or her for a leadership position, the fact is that we do need to take gender into consideration if we are going to advance women into leadership roles. As it happens, this particular woman, Ms. Lutey, happens to also be a top-notch, excellent lawyer with great managerial skills, who is well respected in the community, and who is deeply committed to public service. I would be proud and honored to call her my boss.

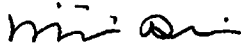
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In sum, a leader is someone who possesses creativity, innovation, is a good decision-maker, and inspires others to do an excellent job. She is someone who is accountable for her decisions and communicates well by first knowing how to be a good listener. Ms. Lutey possesses all of these characteristics, and I strongly urge you to do the right thing for the County by supporting her confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "mimi" followed by a stylized flourish.

Mimi DesJardins