

Testimony of Thomas A. Hamill

Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee

March 4, 2015



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September 24, 2014

Governor Sam Brownback
Statehouse
Topeka, KS 66612

Senator Jeff King
Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee
Statehouse
Topeka, KS 66612

**Re: Nomination of Kathryn Gardner
Kansas Court of Appeals**

Dear Governor Brownback and Senator King:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the nomination of Kathryn Gardner to fill the vacancy on the Kansas Court of Appeals resulting from the elevation of Caleb Stegall to the Kansas Supreme Court.

Kathryn Gardner has a long and distinguished career in the law. It began even before her graduation at the top of her law school class at the University of Kansas School of Law in 1983. While in law school, she was a part-time research assistant to William R. Kauffman, General Counsel to the Kansas Board of Regents. Following graduation from law school, she served as a Research Attorney for Judge Joe Swinchart of the Kansas Court of Appeals, an Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, under Attorney General Stephan, Adjunct Professor of Law, Washburn University School of Law, and law clerk to the Honorable Sam A. Crow. I became acquainted with Kathryn when she was a member of the Martin Pringle law firm, specializing as a trial and appellate lawyer. It was at that time that I first became aware of her extraordinary research and writing capabilities, as well as her ability to analyze and resolve complex legal issues.

Kathryn is clearly a legal scholar with significant experience in appellate practice. A quick review of her resume containing a summary of her publications, presentations and reported cases confirms this conclusion. Kathryn, however, is more than just a legal scholar. She is a well-rounded person who is active in numerous voluntary community organizations including chairing the Board of Directors of the Cair Paravel-Latin School and the Church Child Abuse Task Force, as well as her involvement with the Topeka Parks and Recreation volleyball programs, and a two year stint as Editor of "LawWise."

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Kathryn also possesses a disarming sense of humor. One only needs to read her article published in *The Bench*, magazine of the American Inns of Court, entitled "Juggling Diapers & Dockets ... a Messy Proposition?" Her sense of humor fits nicely into her warm and friendly personality. Her easygoing, friendly demeanor has helped her to work effectively with high strung legal talent throughout her career. A talent that should be an asset in the position for which she is now nominated.

As previously indicated, Kathryn has a broad range of experience as a lawyer: From her experience as a Research Attorney in the Kansas Court of Appeals and at the Federal District Court trial level, to her experience as an Assistant Attorney General, and to being in private practice for 12 years. This experience has prepared her well to serve as a member of the Kansas Court of Appeals.

Her background, intellect and demeanor all combine to make her an ideal candidate for a position on the Kansas Court of Appeals. I highly recommend her to the Commission and support her nomination for this most important position.

If I can provide any additional information, I would be happy to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas A. Hamill', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Thomas A. Hamill

TAH:scc