

was an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District, serving in the criminal division, civil division, and appellate division. In 2010, Judge Damian returned to private practice, representing plaintiffs in asbestos and tobacco product liability cases and later focusing on litigating complex business and commercial matters in State and Federal court, at both the trial and appellate levels. Over the course of her legal career, Judge Damian tried more than 30 cases to verdict. Since 2022, Judge Damian has served as a U.S. magistrate judge on the Southern District. She has presided over two trials that went to verdict or final judgment and has issued approximately 170 written opinions and substantive orders.

Judge Damian has the strong support from her home State Senators, Mr. RUBIO and Mr. SCOTT. In addition, she was unanimously rated "well qualified" by the American Bar Association. I urge my colleagues to support Judge Damian's nomination.

VOTE ON DAMIAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Damian nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 77, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 58 Ex.]

YEAS—77

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Barrasso	Graham	Reed
Bennet	Grassley	Ricketts
Blumenthal	Hassan	Romney
Booker	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Brown	Hirono	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Butler	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Lee	Stabenow
Casey	Lujan	Tester
Cassidy	Lummis	Tillis
Collins	Manchin	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Vance
Cornyn	McConnell	Warner
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warnock
Cotton	Merkley	Warren
Cramer	Moran	Welch
Cruz	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Murphy	Wicker
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Ernst	Ossoff	Young
Fetterman	Padilla	

NAYS—20

Blackburn	Fischer	Lankford
Braun	Hagerty	Marshall
Britt	Hawley	Mullin
Crapo	Hoeven	Paul
Daines	Johnson	

Risch	Scott (SC)	Thune
Schmitt	Sullivan	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—3

Klobuchar	Sinema	Smith
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The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 514, Marjorie A. Rollinson, of Virginia, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

Charles E. Schumer, Ron Wyden, Alex Padilla, John W. Hickenlooper, Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Catherine Cortez Masto, Christopher Murphy, Jack Reed, Margaret Wood Hassan, Thomas R. Carper, Michael F. Bennet, Maria Cantwell, Richard Blumenthal, Peter Welch, Sheldon Whitehouse, Chris Van Hollen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Marjorie A. Rollinson, of Virginia, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 59 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Cantwell	Coons
Bennet	Cardin	Cortez Masto
Blumenthal	Carper	Duckworth
Booker	Casey	Durbin
Brown	Cassidy	Fetterman
Butler	Collins	Gillibrand

Hassan	Murray	Stabenow
Heinrich	Ossoff	Tester
Hickenlooper	Padilla	Tillis
Hirono	Peters	Van Hollen
Kaine	Reed	Warner
Kelly	Romney	Warnock
King	Rosen	Warren
Lujan	Rounds	Welch
Markey	Schatz	Whitehouse
Menendez	Schumer	Wyden
Merkley	Shaheen	
Murphy	Sinema	

NAYS—42

Barrasso	Fischer	Mullin
Blackburn	Graham	Murkowski
Boozman	Grassley	Paul
Braun	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cornyn	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Vance
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young

NOT VOTING—6

Klobuchar	Marshall	Smith
Manchin	Sanders	Tuberville

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The yeas are 52, the nays are 42. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Marjorie A. Rollinson, of Virginia, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

TRIBUTE TO MARTINA MCLENNAN

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, Ann Bancroft, the first woman to reach both the North and South Poles, said:

It looks like I do these journeys alone, but it takes great support from people in the wings pushing you along these journeys and helping you.

The same can be said of us here in the U.S. Senate. It might look like Senators here in this Chamber lead and legislate alone; but, in fact, we are only able to do our work with support of the people in the wings—our dedicated and our tireless staff.

Tonight, I am here to bid farewell to one of the Senate's most dedicated staffers and one of the longest serving members of Team Merkley, my communications director Martina McLennan.

Martina, like Ann Bancroft, is a daughter of Minnesota. Martina, like Ann Bancroft, then connected with Oregon—Ann by attending the University of Oregon, and Martina, by serving the people of Oregon for the last 13 years.

She joined our communications team in 2011. Back then, President Obama and I were still in our first terms. Social media was still pretty new. Our world and our media landscape have, in fact, changed a lot since then.

Along the way, Martina has done every possible role in communications: writing speeches, drafting press releases, creating social media content,

crafting op-eds, jotting talking points, compiling newsletters, pitching reporters on both coasts, and reading and translating my handwriting, which may have been the most difficult task of all because I can't read it 5 minutes after the ink dries—all the while thoughtfully advising and gently guiding me.

She has been by my side through some of the biggest and most challenging moments of the time that I have been here in the Senate: helping secure more funding for the U.S. Forest Service to fight wildfires in 2012; supporting Janet Yellen, the first woman to chair the Federal Reserve; ensuring that regulators actually implemented our stronger Volcker rule in 2013; mourning with the citizens of Roseburg, OR, after the Umpqua Community College shooting in 2015; ensuring that we led the resistance at rallies and protests following President Trump's election in 2016; preparing and staffing me through the night during my 15-hour-and-27-minute marathon speech against Neil Gorsuch's Supreme Court nomination in 2017; traveling to the southern border with me in 2018 to show the world how the Trump administration was ripping immigrant children out of their parents' arms; writing, editing, and annotating our office's comprehensive 80-page report on the Trump administration's attacks on immigration and asylum in 2019; reorienting our entire communications operation to a virtual operation when the pandemic hit; supporting Oregon communities after the Labor Day wildfires in 2020; cleaning up my hideaway after it was ransacked by insurrectionists on January 6, 2021; and, through it all, finally, for filling in for long stretches when we were down a digital director or speechwriter or a deputy press secretary.

As one of our team members put it, "She's unstoppable."

And my staff talk about how Martina, in addition to her communication talents, is always the first to welcome and support a new member of our team, whether that member is in Washington, DC, or in Oregon.

In 2017, the first year of the Trump administration, the turnout of our townhalls was extraordinary, including one townhall where more than 3,000 people showed up. So Martina flew out from DC to support our new Oregon team with her years of experience, wisdom, and lightning-quick wit.

And every year, when Senate staff dress up their dogs in Halloween costumes for Senator TILLIS's annual "Bipawtisan" puppy parade through the atrium of the Hart Office Building, Martina goes down to take the pictures and share the joy with our team on both coasts.

As one of our former Oregon team members put it:

I looked forward to each Halloween because Martina would send [those] pictures, keeping stateside staff informed about the best day of the year in [Washington], DC.

I am not sure what it says about our work here when the best day is when there is a puppy parade.

She is also a brilliant writer. One of our team conservatively estimates that she has written millions of words for our office, putting dry policy language into punchy, plain English with stunning speed and navigating thorny political issues with eloquence and grace.

One of her longtime colleagues said:

I always liken her to a piano virtuoso taking their seat in a concert hall and banging out Mozart or Rachmaninoff and making it look effortless while I struggled just to keep up.

Her colleagues will line up to tell you that, working every day in the chaos of the Senate, Martina is "refreshingly calm," "thoughtful," "kind," and an "encyclopedic fountain of knowledge," who is "rarely seen without a smile or funny remark, even in the most stressful of times."

When she speaks in a meeting, people listen. I listen. She was one of the very first in our office to speak about the need for what has become our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Steering Committee.

Generations of our staff have stories about her quiet gestures of kindness and support that have meant so much to so many over so many years. That is especially true of her communications team, past and present, some of whom have been able to join us tonight.

Even in the toughest moments, she is always there to laugh and commiserate while still delivering the most professional and effective communications operation in the Senate. Whether it has been struggling through late-night shutdown shenanigans while she and another colleague were battling the flu, to encouraging new staff members to offer creative ideas even if the office had never tried anything like that action before, she has always been there for her team.

As one said:

I'm still in major denial. I have never felt like I was more a part of a team than here, and a huge part of that is Martina.

Another said:

It's hard for me to put into words the difference Martina has made in my life as she has continued to mentor and guide me—always a text message or email away with invaluable insights.

Yet another colleague summed it up by saying:

I . . . feel constantly lucky to have worked with, for, and alongside Martina. I always admired and respected the way she approached her work—with humility, grace, and humor—and more than a little bit of sarcasm.

And I consider myself extraordinarily fortunate to have not only been able to call her a colleague but to be able to continue to call her a very dear friend.

I couldn't have said that better myself.

Next week, for the first time in 13 years, I will attend the State of the Union Address without Martina by my side. For more than a decade, we have elbowed our way through the television

cameras in crowded Statuary Hall, rushing from interview to interview late into the night. I am going to miss her next week.

Then there are those thousands of floor charts and hundreds of interviews that have occurred over more than two terms in the Senate.

Tonight, Martina is here, staffing me on the Senate floor for the last time.

At the beginning of my remarks, I quoted Ann Bancroft, who went on to say the following:

Stay curious, keep learning, and keep experiencing. Life is wild and wonderful, and it's good to challenge yourself now and then.

Ann went on to say:

I always say that my best advice is to "get lost"—because . . . that's when the good life stories are created, and you will always find your way back.

Well, soon, Martina will be following Ann Bancroft's advice as she sets off for Southern California and the start of the Pacific Crest Trail, which she will follow north, all the way to Canada, with Ann Bancroft's words in her ears, saying:

It's good to challenge yourself now and then.

And her best advice is to "get lost" as "that's when good life stories are created, and you will . . . find your way back."

Well, I look forward to her stopping on the Pacific Crest Trail in Oregon and saying hello.

For now, though, I will simply say it is with deep gratitude that Team Merkley and I thank Martina McLennan for her many years of service to the U.S. Senate and to the people of Oregon. We toast her tonight with an appropriate saying: "Happy trails."

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 516, Aprille Joy Ericsson, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Aprille Joy Ericsson, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. (New Position)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Ericsson nomination?