



## CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS  
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August 31, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Letter in Support of Kelley B. Hodge, Nominee for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania**

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

As the Deputy Director of the nation's first Municipal Civil Rights Agency, the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations ("the Commission"), I write this resounding letter in support of Kelley B. Hodge's nomination to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Kelley is fair and reasonable. She has brought unparalleled clarity and decisiveness to her professional pursuits. Her depth and commitment to the state of Pennsylvania, the City of Philadelphia and its surrounding communities is unmatched.

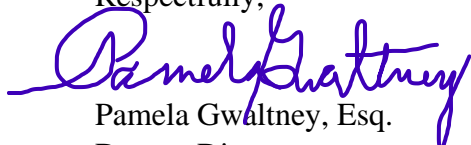
The Commission was included in Philadelphia's City Charter in 1951 with the purpose of ensuring "equal opportunity for all," since that time, it has operated as the original Charter committee intended, not that Philadelphia just should be the birthplace of democracy but "to make the daily life of each of its citizens more and more consonant with the American heritage of freedom." In her service to Philadelphia and its citizens, Kelley has also ensured that this heritage of freedom was available to all who resided in, worked in, and visited the city. During her tenure as Interim District Attorney from 2017-2018, Kelley exhibited her commitment by ensuring that Philadelphia was a safe space of freedom for all. In September of 2017, in collaboration with the Commission and the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office, Kelley launched a hotline for individuals to report hate and bias incidents. The hotline included a plan for the prosecution of hate and bias crimes, where appropriate, by divisional District Attorneys, an effort not previously undertaken in that manner. Little did she know when she spent 7 years as an Assistant District Attorney, that she would return to the office she served with excellence.

Prior to her tenure as Interim District Attorney, Kelley also exhibited a strong commitment to Pennsylvania's youth and safer schools when she served as Safe Schools Advocate under the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

The later writer James Baldwin stated, "Words like "freedom," "justice," democracy," are not common concepts; on the contrary; they are rare. People are not born knowing what these are. It takes enormous and, above all, individual effort to arrive at the respect for other people that these words imply." Undoubtedly, through her lived experience, education and personal dedication, Kelley understands the power and importance of "freedom," "justice," and "democracy." She will bring respect of people and of the rule of law to the bench. As a Black woman, Kelley's view from the bench will be one of fairness, depth, insightfulness, grace. She will serve the country with matchless integrity and spirit.

The Commission strongly urges you to promptly review Kelley's nomination and vote to confirm her appointment so that the full Senate can promptly confirm her to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Respectfully,



Pamela Gwaltney, Esq.  
Deputy Director