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PRESIDENT
RAKIM BROOKS

CHAIR
PAULETTE MEYER

June 4, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Durbin:

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice, a national association representing more than 150 diverse organizations united in our commitment to justice, I write to express our support for the confirmation of Judge Joseph Saporito Jr. to the Middle District of Pennsylvania. A pillar of the Pennsylvania legal community, Saporito is an extremely well-qualified nominee who has dedicated his career to serving his community.

Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Judge Saporito earned his B.A. from Villanova University and his J.D. from the Penn State Dickinson School of Law. After law school, he joined the County of Luzerne's Office of the Public Defender as a part-time assistant public defender. He represented indigent criminal defendants in misdemeanor and felony cases, trying an impressive 60 cases to verdict. We are thrilled to see an individual with Saporito's public defense background nominated to the federal bench. It is vitally important that our courts are staffed with judges who understand both sides of the criminal justice system.

While working for the public defender's office, Saporito also served as a part-time law clerk for the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. He served the court for an impressive 23 years.. From 1985-2015, Saporito also worked in private practice with his father. He started as an associate at the Law Offices of Joseph Saporito, Sr. and, after two years, was elevated to partner in their new joint firm: Saporito & Saporito (now Saporito, Saporito & Falcone). At the firm, Saporito litigated a variety of civil matters, including wrongful termination claims.

In 2015, Saporito was appointed to serve as a magistrate judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. He presides over various civil and criminal matters, including misdemeanor trials, bail determinations, and arrest warrants. Saporito's time as a magistrate judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania prepares him well for the immense responsibility of joining the district court.

In conclusion, we are thrilled to see a judge of Saporito’s caliber nominated to the federal bench. Since day one, he has dedicated his legal career to serving the people of the Middle District – first as a public defender and law clerk and now as a magistrate judge. We urge the Senate to move quickly to confirm Saporito to the Middle District; Pennsylvanians deserve a judge like Joseph Saporito.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rakim H.D. Brooks".

Rakim Brooks
President, Alliance for Justice