

July 8, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Mary Kay Costello to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I respectfully write to offer my sincere and wholehearted support for the confirmation of Assistant United States Attorney Mary Kay Costello. I am an assistant federal public defender in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and have been employed in this capacity since 1995. I have known Mary Kay Costello since she began her tenure as a prosecutor in this district some years ago. I have handled many cases with her and I speak from my personal experience with Ms. Costello both in and out of the federal courtroom.

Because of the nature of our federal system, we defenders spend much of our time communicating with our counterparts at the United States Attorney's Office. There is some degree of necessity in being able to rely upon the representations made by our counterparts. I have had the pleasure of working with /against Ms. Costello for many years. I trust what she says about her cases, whether it's a representation about the strength of her case, her guideline calculations, her input from the government's victims and witnesses. Often, we represent defendants who are cooperating witnesses for the government. I have handled cases in that particular posture with Ms. Costello as well. These types of cases require myself and my client to spend a lot of time with the individual prosecutors and the case agents. Consequently, I have observed Ms. Costello's excellent temperament, her professionalism with agents, interpreters, and defendants. I have been privy to her case analysis and her excellent judgment. Most recently, Ms. Costello called on my client to testify as a government witness at trial. I was able to observe her skills in the courtroom as a trial lawyer and her pretrial filings which of course, were more fulsome than filings in cases that do not go to trial. She is an excellent litigator and conveys her intelligence and credibility to jurors and jurists alike.

I have the highest regard for Ms. Costello. She is always thorough and thoughtful in her communications—oral and written. If confirmed, she will be a superb addition to our district court bench. She appears to have an innate sense of fairness, humility, duty, and empathy. She has earned the noticeable respect of the district court judges we have been before together.

I am aware of her military background and her longstanding dedication to public service. I have no doubt that she will be an exceptional jurist and will maintain the level of professionalism she has always demonstrated with future litigants, court staff, victims and defendants that come before her. Having worked directly with Ms. Costello, I say with confidence, she will be a fair, honest, hardworking, and intelligent jurist. If Your Honors wish to have more specific or detailed information, I am happy to provide such information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maranna J. Meehan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

MARANNA J. MEEHAN
Assistant Federal Defender
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