

July 3, 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 am writing to express my support for Mary Kay Costello's nomination to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Although I am currently an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Northern District of Texas, I was previously employed with the Federal Community Defender in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania from 2013 to 2023. During that time, I had numerous interactions with Ms. Costello in her capacity as an Assistant United States Attorney. Her work ethic and integrity are unassailable and laudable. She was always and without exception straightforward and knowledgeable in our interactions and practiced with a true dedication to her profession and the pursuit of justice. She was always candid with the Court and with me specifically, and her adversaries in general, which led her word and actions to carry great weight in assessing the reasonableness of her recommendations and arguments.

I can think of no better candidate for the bench and am confident that she will bring further honor to the existing Bench and additional public confidence in the judiciary. While her confirmation will be a loss to the United States Attorney's Office and her adversaries in that district, seeing a person of her caliber receive recognition for her career achievements and dedication will be a reward in and of itself to the District and the profession in general.

I have no doubt that she will continue to demonstrate the attributes described above if confirmed to the Bench. I strongly support her nomination.

Sincerely,

Maria A. Pedraza, Esq.