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May 16, 2023

Marianne M. Stivala, Esquire
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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: JUDGE JULIA K. MUNLEY

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I write this letter to offer my overwhelming support for the confirmation of Judge Julia Munley as Judge of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. I applaud President Biden for nominating such an outstanding and competent legal scholar to this position.

I have been a practicing lawyer in Northeastern Pennsylvania for over forty (40) years. My practice is very active, and I appear before several Judges of the various Courts in Northeastern, PA on a regular basis. During my career, I was privileged to be appointed by the Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to serve on the Pennsylvania Disciplinary Board for six (6) years and to serve as its chairman.

I first met Judge Munley soon after her graduation from Law School. She was introduced to me by her Father, the former Judge James Munley (Judge of Middle District of Pennsylvania and the Court of Common Pleas of Lackawanna County) who I knew, admired and had the deepest respect for.

In her early years of practice, I would see her on occasion and started recognizing her talent as a lawyer when she began working for a local firm in Scranton in 2001. Paths crossed in our community on Non-Profit Boards which provide for the less fortunate and homeless and in the Courtroom representing individual clients. I had

the privilege of watching her professional career blossom. She is passionate about everything she does.

She was a fierce advocate for her clients, always prepared, and a learned student of the Law. There was never a doubt of her intellect and her integrity.

In 2016 she was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas of Lackawanna County, assigned to the Civil side of the Court with an emphasis in the Family Court Division. This is a very busy Court with the Judges having extensive calendars every day. This is where I appeared before Judge Munley several times a week from the beginning of her tenure to today. I have litigated over a hundred cases in her Courtroom. She is always prepared and is recognized for her work ethic, which is second to none. From the first day she began her Judicial career she maintained command of the Courtroom.

Judge Munley treats all lawyers, parties and witnesses with the utmost respect. She provides the opportunity for pro-se litigants to be heard and guides them appropriately so that their concerns are addressed. Often in the Family Court, emotions run high and controlling the process so everyone is heard is very difficult. One of Judge Munley's outstanding attributes is patience and her willingness to listen. She spends the time necessary while making the ultimate decisions which, although difficult, must be made.

Judge Munley is above reproach. She is a person of the highest moral integrity. All decisions are based on the law and the appropriate relationship to the facts. Without question she is an intellectually independent thinker, always analyzing what is presented before making decisions.

I, along with many of the lawyers that appear before her, are regularly impressed at the practical wisdom she brings to very difficult cases. She thinks long and hard to frame a result which is thoughtful, correct, and serves the best interest of all involved.

She is an advocate for children who often are in the crossfire of the cases she presides over. She is their constant protector.

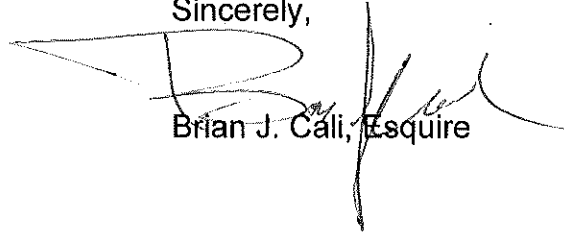
The opinion I express is not just my own. She is recognized by all who appear before her as fair, smart and thoughtful. Her reputation is that of an outstanding jurist who is always respectful and kind. However, while addressing difficult circumstances, she does so with sternness and consistency focusing on the result supported by the law and arriving at the appropriate result.

Judge Julia Munley will be an outstanding Judge of the Middle District of Pennsylvania. She will bring to the Court a commitment to Justice with humility and intellect. She is compassionate but stern and consistent in her decisions. Judge Munley is a student of law, always listening and continually willing to learn.

I proudly without hesitation support Judge Julia Munley as Judge of the Middle District of Pennsylvania. The only sadness I, like many other lawyers will have, is that the Lackawanna County Court will be losing a truly outstanding Jurist.

She will be missed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Cali". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "B" and a long, vertical flourish extending downwards.

Brian J. Cali, Esquire

BJC/mp

VIA EMAIL ONLY