

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 Senators Durbin and Graham:

We are a group of career criminal defense attorneys practicing in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (EDPA) who have served as public defenders and/or private criminal defense counsel for many years. We have defended cases prosecuted by, and worked with, Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) Mary Kay Costello in EDPA, or we are aware of her excellent reputation as a federal prosecutor. As such we write in support of Ms. Costello's nomination and confirmation to serve as a United States District Court Judge in EDPA. The signatories to this letter are active criminal defense practitioners who respect Ms. Costello and acknowledge her many accomplishments as an attorney. She is a gifted advocate for the United States and she possesses the experience and skills required of a United States District Court Judge.

Ms. Costello has served our country throughout her career, first as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Air Force for eight years and then again since April 2008 as an AUSA in EDPA. In addition to her military service and her service as a federal prosecutor, Ms. Costello has distinguished herself academically in both college and law school. Ms. Costello has also previously worked for six years in the area of civil litigation at a law firm in Philadelphia. This experience in civil practice will serve to enhance Ms. Costello's ability to excel as a District Court Judge who will be tasked with presiding over such matters. Additionally, Ms. Costello's many years of service as a federal prosecutor has afforded her the requisite insight and experience to fairly and appropriately adjudicate federal criminal cases.

Ms. Costello is well respected in our legal community, she possesses extensive legal experience, and she has earned a reputation for fairness, all of which makes her perfectly suited to serve on the United States District Court for EDPA. Therefore, we unequivocally and wholeheartedly support Ms. Costello's nomination and confirmation.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael J. Engle

Michael J. Engle, Esquire

Past President of the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers

/s/ Leigh M. Skipper

Leigh M. Skipper, Esquire
Former Chief Federal Defender, Federal Community Defender for EDPA
Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers

/s/ Arthur T. Donato, Jr.

Arthur T. Donato, Jr., Esquire
Past President of the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers

/s/ Catherine M. Recker

Catherine M. Recker, Esquire
Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers

/s/ Mark B. Sheppard

Mark B. Sheppard, Esquire
Past President of the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

/s/ Peter E. Kratsa

Peter E. Kratsa, Esquire
Past President of the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

/s/ Caroline G. Cinquanto

Caroline G. Cinquanto, Esquire
Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers

/s/ William J. Brennan

William J. Brennan, Esquire
Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers

/s/ Mark E. Cedrone

Mark E. Cedrone, Esquire
Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers

/s/ Caroline G. Donato

Caroline G. Donato, Esquire
Secretary of the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

/s/ Ellen C. Brotman

Ellen C. Brotman, Esquire

/s/ Ashley E. Shapiro

Ashley E. Shapiro, Esquire

/s/ Nina C. Spizer

Nina C. Spizer, Esquire

/s/ Amy Carver
Amy Carver, Esquire

/s/ Meredith S. Auten
Meredith S. Auten, Esquire

/s/ Ryan T. Becker
Ryan T. Becker, Esquire

/s/ Ronald L. Greenblatt
Ronald L. Greenblatt, Esquire

/s/ Kenneth Edelin
Kenneth Edelin, Esquire

/s/ Jaelyn Unis Whittaker
Jaelyn Unis Whittaker, Esquire

/s/ Ryan P. McCarthy
Ryan P. McCarthy, Esquire

/s/ Rebecca J. Hillyer
Rebecca J. Hillyer, Esquire