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July 18, 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 The Honorable Gail Weilheimer to the United States District
Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania**

Dear Senators Durbin and Graham:

I am pleased to support the nomination of The Honorable Gail Weilheimer, currently serving as a Judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, to fill a vacancy on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania created by the untimely death of The Honorable Gene E.K. Pratter. If confirmed I have every confidence from personal knowledge of the candidate that she will serve the Court and the people of this country with distinction, integrity, and high honor.

I am a former Judge in the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia, and more recently served as the District Attorney of Philadelphia from 1991 until 2010. I have been practicing Civil Litigation in the law firm listed above for the past 14 years. As District Attorney, our office hired and trained a complement of 320 young professionals to try every criminal case properly brought in the multiple thousands each year. Fortunately for this City, its inhabitants, and visitors, Gail came to work in our office in September of 1995, after an intense competition among approximately 2,000 attorney candidates from many law schools across our country. She clearly impressed our Hiring Committee which screened all 2000 applicants for 20 or so openings, after which she similarly impressed me. Besides her legal abilities, she was self-possessed, unfailingly gracious, and a consummate professional.

After her first year Gail advanced from the Municipal Court Unit to the Juvenile Court Unit for her second year, then into Felony Waiver (Bench) trials for another year where the most serious crimes other than homicides are tried by Judge alone without a jury. Due to her meticulous preparation, dedication to our laws, faithfully following appellate decisions, and honoring our Constitution, Gail's exceptional legal abilities became so impressive she was promoted to the Major Trials Division. That division had a dedicated Judge assigned to each trial room with a specially assigned District Attorney's Assistant. For the next four years Gail tried

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many trials to a jury, the late Honorable John Chiovero, presiding. Finally, after seven years of selfless service to the public, Gail left the DAO in 2002 and began practicing civil litigation in Montgomery County while raising her young family before joining Wisler Pearlstine, LLP in 2008. However, her service to the public was not behind her since in 2013 she was elected by the people of Montgomery County to a seat on its Common Pleas Court for ten years, and retained her for another ten-year term in 2023.

I believe our great county is undergoing a period of turmoil where it appears there is fraying of the once strong fabric of the Rule of Law and a crisis of confidence in our Courts. Now, more than at almost any other time in our history, we need Judges on our benches who will help restore confidence in our legal systems by the fair and impartial administration of justice. I am sure Gail Weilheimer has amply demonstrated that she has the character, the courage, and the intellect to deliver that fair and impartial justice to all who will appear before her in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania as she has over the past 11 years in Montgomery County thereby aiding this important restorative effort.

I wholeheartedly and unreservedly commend The Honorable Gail Weilheimer to this Honorable Senate Committee for its favorable consideration. If requested, I would happily appear to offer first hand testimony to assist the Committee's consideration of this judicial nominee.

Respectfully,



LYNNE M. ABRAHAM, ESQUIRE

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