

THE HONORABLE THOMAS F. BURKE, JR. (Ret.)
910 Susquehanna Avenue
West Pittston, PA 18643
570-362-8765

May 22, 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: *Judge Joseph F. Saporito, Jr.*
*Judicial Nominee to the U. S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania***

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

It is indeed my pleasure to write this letter in support of the nomination of Judge Joseph F. Saporito, Jr., to serve as a judge on the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.


By way of my own background, after completion of my education and military service with the U.S. Army in the Republic of Vietnam, I was engaged in the private practice of law for 25 years and, thereafter, served as a Pennsylvania State Trial Judge in the 11th Judicial District of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Luzerne County) for almost 24 years (including five years as president judge) until my retirement in December of 2021.

I have known Judge Saporito well for almost 40 years and can state, categorically, that he has been a true asset to the legal profession throughout his entire career. I first became acquainted with him as a fellow practicing lawyer and recognized, quickly, that he was talented, hardworking and trustworthy. Both during the decade when our aforesaid careers as lawyers overlapped and, subsequently, when I ascended to the judiciary, I would marvel at Judge Saporito's ability to demonstrate a high level of competence in both criminal and civil law. He was comfortable handling matters both inside and outside the courtroom and I dare say, was a diligent and staunch advocate for his clients and their causes in a variety of matters that he handled in front of me.

Judge Saporito's tenure as a Federal Magistrate Judge over the past decade has been impressive. Early on in that capacity, he drew upon his extensive trial experience and knowledge of both the law and legal procedure (both civil and criminal) to make a virtually seamless transition to that of a highly respected tribunal. The consensus view of the many lawyers I know who have appeared in front of him would suggest that he is always prepared, listens intently to their arguments, and renders judicious rulings. Many would say that he exhibits a classic judicial temperament while projecting a quiet strength when presiding over hearings and trials. Moreover, the universal view is that his character and integrity are beyond reproach. His peers in the judiciary, both state and federal, would all agree that perhaps his hallmark characteristic is his unwavering commitment to the fair and impartial administration of justice.

I thank you for affording me this opportunity to share my thoughts regarding the nomination of Judge Saporito for the federal bench. I have every confidence that he would be a huge asset in what will hopefully be the next chapter in his already distinguished career in the law.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas F. Burke, Jr." in a cursive script.

Thomas F. Burke, Jr.