



LACKAWANNA BAR ASSOCIATION

233 PENN AVENUE
SCRANTON, PA 18503
P: (570)969-9161
WWW.LACKAWANNABAR.ORG

JOHN C. MASCELLI, ESQ., *PRESIDENT*
J. TIMOTHY HINTON, JR, ESQ., *PRESIDENT ELECT*
LORI A. BARRETT, ESQ., *VICE PRESIDENT*
PATRICIA A. LAFFERTY, ESQ., *SECRETARY*
LAWRENCE A. DURKIN, ESQ., *TREASURER*
MICHAEL F. COSGROVE, ESQ., *EX-OFFICIO*
LEE ANN MUNLEY, *EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*

July 25, 2023

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: Lackawanna Bar Association support for Senate Confirmation of Honorable Karoline Mehalchick as U.S. District Court Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

As President, and on behalf of the Lackawanna Bar Association membership, it is my privilege to submit this letter in support of Judge Karoline Mehalchick's elevation from Chief United States Magistrate Judge to District Judge on the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Judge Mehalchick is a superior candidate who has forged a distinguished career both as a practicing attorney, and as a sitting Judge. This makes her eminently qualified to ascend to the position of a Federal District Judge.

Judge Mehalchick started her legal career as a law clerk to now Chief Judge of the Lackawanna County Court, Judge Trish Corbett. In that capacity she assisted Judge Corbett in preparing for arguments and trials, and in drafting bench memoranda and opinions. She also attended, and participated in settlement conferences, arguments, arbitrations and trials.

This invaluable experience was then complimented by the work she did as an associate, and then, as a partner in the law firm of Oliver, Price and Rhodes. A talented trial attorney, Judge Mehalchick did civil and commercial litigation before federal and state trial, appellate courts, and administrative agencies.

Judge Mehalchick specific areas of practice included civil rights defense, employment law, education law, municipal law, business disputes, commercial litigation and personal injury. In addition, she worked with the firm's management partner on administration and management of the law office.

Furthermore, Judge Mehalchick was an active member of the Lackawanna Bar Association. She served as President of the Young Lawyers Division followed by being co-chair of the Bench Bar Committee, and a member of the Civil Rules Committee, and the Katrina Relief Committee.

Judge Mehalchick also participated in community activities including the Ballet Theatre of Scranton, the Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School, the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, and

the Scranton Area Foundation. In addition she was a Board Member of Serving Seniors, Inc., and the Festival Committee for the Saint Joseph's Center.

Because of her service to the Bar and community, Judge Mehalchick was "has been" presented with multiple awards and honors including the Michael K. Smith Excellence in Service Award, the Margaret P. Gavin Award, and recognized as a Woman Trailblazer, and by the Pennsylvania Bar Association Commission on Women.

Thus, it was only fitting in 2013 she became a United States Magistrate Judge. This is a position she has served with honor demonstrating the unfailing qualities of legal scholarship, integrity and professionalism.

In this capacity, Judge Mehalchick has adjudicated civil cases from filing through trial with the consent of the parties; managed discovery and other pretrial matters in civil proceedings; issued reports and recommendations on dispositive matters.

As it relates to criminal cases, she has presided over misdemeanor and petty offense cases; issued search warrants, arrest warrants and summons; accepted criminal complaints; and conducted initial appearance proceedings and detention hearings.

Judge Mehalchick has presided over the Scranton CARE Court, the Middle District's Court-Assisted Reentry Program, co-chaired the Court's Prisoner Litigation Settlement Program, and is a member of the Magistrate Judge and Pro Se Law Clerk Committee.

Her professional activities include the Judicial Conference Committee on Codes of Conduct, the Judicial Council for the Third Judicial Circuit, the Federal Courts Law Review while being active as a member of the Federal Bar Association, the Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter, FBA, and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

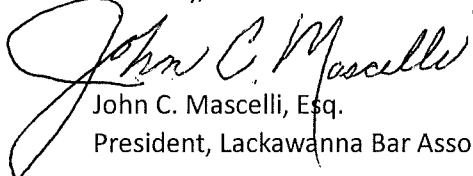
Moreover, her qualifications are further enhanced by her well-earned reputation of being an impartial Judge with an innate sense of fairness, a steady industrious work ethic, a resolute calm, and a measured judicial demeanor that assures the attorneys and parties who appear before her the playing field is level.

This, in turn, has earned her the respect of all the attorneys and parties who had cases with her in private practice, and who had cases before her while sitting as a United States Magistrate Judge.

The scope and breath of Judge Mehalchick's experience, both as a litigator and a Judge, in civil and criminal matters, and her participation in Bar Association, professional and community activities, is impressive making her an ideal candidate for the United States District Judgeship.

Thus, the members of the Lackawanna Bar Association fully support and encourage the elevation of Judge Mehalchick to the next level of the Federal Judiciary. Judge Mehalchick will serve the citizens of Lackawanna County and the United States of America with distinction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Mascelli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John C. Mascelli, Esq.

President, Lackawanna Bar Association