

# McDonald & MacGregor, LLC

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May 30, 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 Joseph F. Saporito, Jr. for United States  
District Judge in the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I am very pleased and honored to write this letter in enthusiastic support of Magistrate Judge Joseph F. Saporito, Jr., for his confirmation as United States District Court Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Having known Judge Saporito for over 20 years and witnessed him in many different roles, I can confidently attest to his outstanding qualifications, judicial temperament, keen intellect and his supreme dedication to the rule of law. Simply put, Joseph F. Saporito, Jr. will make an excellent United States District Court Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

I have had the special privilege and honor of knowing Judge Saporito before he ascended to his current position of Magistrate Judge in the Middle District of Pennsylvania in 2015. Early in his career, we represented two different plaintiffs in a civil jury trial that proceeded for approximately 2 weeks in Lackawanna County Court in Scranton, Pennsylvania. During that civil trial he demonstrated many of the superior courtroom skills that he would display in many criminal jury trials as a Luzerne County Assistant Public Defender for 19 years in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. Attorney Saporito was thoroughly prepared and knowledgeable on the facts and applicable law, and exhibited his advocacy skills with very effective direct and cross examinations and opening and closing arguments. He also continuously presented legally sound and persuasive arguments to the presiding Judge on numerous evidentiary issues that arose throughout the trial. In short he was an very effective advocate who presented his case with civility and respect for the Court, Judge, jury, lawyers, witnesses and parties.

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I'm sure my experience with Judge Saporito on this one case perfectly represents his whole body of work as a private attorney. I'm also sure these thoughts would be echoed by all the lawyers he encountered and all the Judges before whom he appeared over the years.

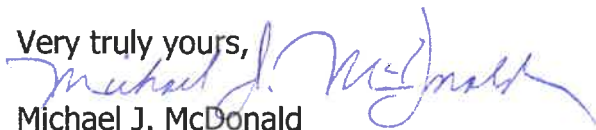
Once he became a Magistrate Judge I had the honor of appearing in front of Judge Saporito in his new role as an officer of the Court. He repeatedly demonstrated all the qualities I was familiar with, including a thorough knowledge of the applicable law, an excellent courtroom demeanor, and an engaging personality that, taken together, promote respect among the bench and bar alike. He also has not forgotten the challenges and practical concerns of being a private attorney representing a client, and his empathetic understanding of the rigors of being a litigant in Federal Court engender an appreciation for the humanity in our legal system and its efforts to bring justice to all.

It was no surprise that a lawyer of his professional excellence, integrity and work ethic was chosen by his peers to become President of the Wilkes Barre Law and Library Association, the bar association encompassing Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. It was also no surprise that his community has repeatedly recognized his outstanding leadership abilities and stellar reputation, exemplified by his being selected as Chair of the Board of Trustees of Scranton Prep High School. I could catalogue his professional and personal accomplishments at length, but I believe Judge Saporito's life of selfless service and ethical dedication to the rule of law amply fulfills the qualifications of a Judge outlined by the ancient philosopher Socrates. His wise words still ring true as they echo down the human experience and reflect our unrelenting search for Justice;

"Four things belong to a Judge: to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly, and to decide impartially."

Having just completed my term on May 10<sup>th</sup> as President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, I understand and appreciate the extreme importance of having well-qualified, exceptional Judges serving on the federal bench in Pennsylvania. I believe Judge Saporito's confirmation to the District Court of the Middle District of Pennsylvania will only add luster to the current esteem enjoyed by this Court. I believe Judge Saporito's confirmation will be lauded by fellow members of the Court, the profession and the community at large. I believe history will judge this selection as a wise and visionary choice for our democratic republic.

Very truly yours,



Michael J. McDonald