



October 26, 2023

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of Support for The Honorable Edward S. Kiel

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association strongly supports U.S. Magistrate Edward S. Kiel to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey.

NAPABA is the national association of Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students. NAPABA represents the interests of over 60,000 attorneys and over 90 national, state, and local bar associations. Its members include solo practitioners, large firm lawyers, corporate counsel, legal services and non-profit attorneys, and lawyers serving at all levels of government.

Judge Kiel, a 2010 NAPABA Trailblazer awardee, is exceptionally well qualified to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. Judge Kiel has served as a U.S. Magistrate since 2019 and handles pretrial proceedings for civil litigation, all aspects of civil matters to which parties have consented, and initial proceedings in criminal matters. He is one of two judges managing the District's Pretrial Opportunity Program.

Before his selection as a U.S. Magistrate, Judge Kiel was an experienced litigator for 27 years. A litigation partner at Cole Schotz, he handled a wide array of complex commercial, corporate, and construction matters where he has tried dozens of cases to verdict. Judge Kiel was the first Korean American attorney to become a partner at a large New Jersey law firm. He also co-chaired and was a founding member of his law firm's diversity committee.

Active in the Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of New Jersey, as a practitioner, he served as a cooperating attorney with the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund and as pro bono counsel to the Korean American Association of New Jersey.

He graduated from Notre Dame Law School with his law degree and received his B.S.E.E. and B.A. from Rutgers University.

NAPABA proudly supports U.S. Magistrate Edward S. Kiel and urges the swift confirmation of his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Priya Purandare". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Priya Purandare
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
Executive Director