



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120

MICHELLE A. HENRY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

16TH FLOOR  
STRAWBERRY SQUARE  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120  
(717) 787-3391

September 23, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Keli M. Neary  
Judicial Nominee to the United States District Court for the Middle District of  
Pennsylvania

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

I am writing this letter in support of Attorney Keli M. Neary, for consideration for appointment as a District Judge for the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. I first met Keli in 2017, when I became the First Deputy Attorney General with the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. She was then serving as a Senior Deputy Attorney General in our Civil Litigation Section. Shortly thereafter, she was selected to serve as the Chief Deputy Attorney General of that section. The Civil Litigation Section represents the Commonwealth when it is sued for a variety of reasons including breach of contract, contests to agency regulations and constitutional challenges to Pennsylvania statutes. In our respective roles, we interfaced on complex and often high profile matters being handled by our office. I have always been impressed by her work and her professionalism.

During my tenure as First Deputy Attorney General, Keli was selected, through a competitive process, to lead the Civil Law Division of the Office of Attorney General, serving as its Executive Deputy Attorney General reporting directly to me. As Executive Deputy Attorney General, Keli's responsibilities were expanded to not only supervising the Civil Litigation Section which she previously led, but also supervising the work of our Tax, Torts Litigation, Financial Enforcement, Review and Advice and Appeals sections. In that capacity, I worked directly with Keli on some of the most complex cases handled by the Civil Division, whereby we defended

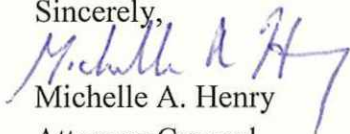
Commonwealth agencies and sometimes brought suit on their behalf. She was tasked with coordinating a large team of attorneys and mitigating civil liability for multiple state agencies.

The Covid 19 Pandemic and the 2020 election resulted in an onslaught of contentious and unprecedented litigation, in all three Federal Districts and Pennsylvania state courts. That litigation was conducted under challenging pandemic restrictions which required that depositions, meetings and even some hearings be conducted remotely. Moreover, especially with the litigation related to the 2020 election, Keli's teams worked under greatly accelerated schedules for responsive pleadings and discovery. Despite all this adversity, Keli led her team to positive results for the Commonwealth in most of this litigation.

Keli demonstrates strong legal reasoning and judgement and a strong work ethic. I have had the opportunity to witness Keli interact with her colleagues in the office, outside and opposing counsel and other external stakeholders including constituents and legislators. She is capable and professional in her dealings and able to handle extremely complicated and contentious situations with skill and tact. She represents the Office of Attorney General with distinction and has the confidence of the entire executive staff.

I offer my full support in recommending Attorney Neary and do so without hesitation or reservation. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the specifics of our professional interactions should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

  
Michelle A. Henry  
Attorney General