



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE  
1800 ELMERTON AVENUE  
HARRISBURG, PA. 17110

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER

September 13, 2024

**To Whom it May Concern:**

I am writing this letter in support of Attorney Keli M. Neary, to confirm her for the position of Federal Judge. I first met Keli in 2010, when I was a newly assigned Lieutenant in the Department Discipline Office. She was then serving as an Assistant Chief Council for the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). In our respective roles, we handled many discipline cases which required arbitration and litigation, stemming from discipline imposed up to, and including, termination. These proceedings were akin to bench trials, which required extensive witness preparation, examination, oral arguments, and submission of briefs.

Attorney Neary demonstrated a keen legal mind and relentless work ethic second to none while navigating a complex and robust due process system under both Department regulations and collective bargaining agreements. I have personally witnessed her handle many complex issues in the context of the core purpose and values of the PSP. She is an ethical person whose word is her bond, and her commitment to the service of her client has always been above reproach. I have also watched her navigate many cases of civil defense for PSP, an agency that must contend with, and mitigate, liability on a near hourly basis, given its mission and operating environment. She and her team were always strong advocates for Troopers doing their job in accordance with regulations and legal precedent. Her legal advice is consistently made with well researched case law, and sound moral principles.

In the role of Executive Deputy Attorney General, I have observed Keli coordinate a large team of attorneys, mitigating civil liability for multiple state agencies, including PSP. In subsequent assignments as a Troop Commander and as Director of PSP's Internal Affairs, I have seen her team represent the Department with great legal acumen in federal court. These cases involved the use of deadly force in the performance of duty and had millions of dollars of liability in the balance, as they were litigated. I cannot speak highly enough as to her judgment and professionalism. Her character is beyond reproach.

This is a great deal to say about any professional, but I offer the above, without hesitation or reservation. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the specifics of additional professional interactions which the brevity of this correspondence will not allow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Col. Christopher L. Paris".

Colonel Christopher L. Paris  
Commissioner