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May 17, 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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

I am writing for the purpose of enthusiastically endorsing the nomination of the Honorable Joseph Saporito to serve as a U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. It is my understanding that his nomination is presently before your committee.

I was privileged to serve for nineteen years on the court to which Judge Saporito has been nominated, including the last several years of my tenure as chief judge. I retired from the court in 2021 to assume my present post as the president of Dickinson College. While I did not know Judge Saporito personally during his time in private practice, I was very aware of his superb reputation. It was that reputation, and his evident intellect and demeanor, which combined to commend him for the position of United States Magistrate Judge. Our court was privileged to appoint him to that position, and as I expected, he performed his duties in this important post with distinction.

Judge Saporito handled his docket with deft and enthusiasm. In their best iterations, U.S. Magistrate Judges can be invaluable to their Article III colleagues by handling consent cases, mediating and settling disputes, and rendering reports and recommendations, among other duties. Judge Saporito eagerly undertook all these duties, and more. What constantly impressed me about him was how he moved matters adroitly and with the utmost fairness. Moreover, he did so with the kind of demeanor that was the envy of his colleagues. During all the time I served with Judge Saporito I heard not a single complaint regarding his work, and in fact there were legions of compliments.

Judge Saporito is clearly qualified to step up to the position of U.S. District Judge. He has "been there and done that." His character is beyond reproach. That he is respected by his colleagues and the bar is manifestly true. I am thus affording this terrific jurist my highest level of support.

Thank you for allowing me to render an endorsement of this exemplary candidate. Should you require more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Hon. John E. Jones III (ret.) President, Dickinson College