

Senator Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member
Follow-up Questions for the Record
Judge Julia Kathleen Munley

Nominee to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

- 1. According to your committee questionnaire, you have “served as a judge on the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas, 45th Judicial District, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, since June 2016.” Based on public records, it appears that you have made multiple donations to political candidates and political action committees after you became a judge. Specifically, it appears that you donated to Sid Michaels Kavulich, a candidate for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, twice, once in 2017 in the amount of \$100 and again in 2018 in the amount of \$100. It also appears that you donated to John Blake, a candidate for Pennsylvania Senate, in 2018 in the amount of \$400, and that you made more than a dozen donations after becoming a judge to the American Association for Justice Political Action Committee from 2016-2017 in the total amount of \$1083.29. It also appears that you received a refund from the same organization in 2021 for \$1083.00.**

Did you make these contributions?

Response: I was nominated to the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas by Governor Tom Wolf in June 2016, and was sworn into office and became a judge in August 2016. In 2017, I was a candidate for judge for a full 10-year term and won election in November 2017.

From November 9, 2016, the day immediately after the general election of 2016, to November 7, 2017, the day of the general election of 2017 when I was on the ballot, I was a candidate pursuing public election for judicial office for a full 10-year term.

Regarding Sid Michaels Kavulich’s campaign, I made one \$100 contribution to his campaign on August 1, 2017 when I was a candidate on the ballot for judicial office for a full 10-year term and attended an event of his so that I could interact with voters.

As permitted by the Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 4.2(B), a candidate for elective judicial office may, unless prohibited by law, and not earlier than immediately after the general election in the year prior to the calendar year in which a person may become a candidate for such office:

- (4) attend or purchase tickets for dinners or other events sponsored by a political organization or a candidate for public office;
- (6) contribute to a political organization or candidate for public office.

I did not make any contribution to Mr. Kavulich's campaign in 2018. A review of the 2018 campaign finance reports filed by Mr. Kavulich with the Pennsylvania Department of State does not show any contribution made by me in 2018.

<https://www.campaignfinanceonline.pa.gov/Pages/ShowReport.aspx?ReportID=277720&isStatement=0&is24Hour=0>

<https://www.campaignfinanceonline.pa.gov/Pages/ShowReport.aspx?ReportID=283632&isStatement=0&is24Hour=0>

The online database, Follow the Money, appears to attribute my \$100 contribution dated August 1, 2017 to the 2018 election year. It should be noted that Mr. Kavulich died in October 2018 before the general election.

Regarding John Blake's campaign, I did not make any contribution to his campaign in 2018. The referenced \$400 contribution appears to be an aggregate of two contributions: \$250 on August 20, 2015, and \$150 on August 26, 2015, before I was a judge. I have confirmed the dates and amounts of these contributions by way of a review of a report filed by Mr. Blake's campaign committee. His committee's finance report filed in 2015 with the Pennsylvania Department of State contains my two August 2015 contributions.

<https://www.campaignfinanceonline.pa.gov/Pages/ShowReport.aspx?ReportID=181283&isStatement=0&is24Hour=0>

A review of his campaign finance reports filed for 2018 shows no contributions from me in 2018.

<https://www.campaignfinanceonline.pa.gov/Pages/ShowReport.aspx?ReportID=276055&isStatement=0&is24Hour=0>

<https://www.campaignfinanceonline.pa.gov/Pages/ShowReport.aspx?ReportID=277088&isStatement=0&is24Hour=0>

<https://www.campaignfinanceonline.pa.gov/Pages/ShowReport.aspx?ReportID=283018&isStatement=0&is24Hour=0>

<https://www.campaignfinanceonline.pa.gov/Pages/ShowReport.aspx?ReportID=286517&isStatement=0&is24Hour=0>

<https://www.campaignfinanceonline.pa.gov/Pages/ShowReport.aspx?ReportID=288409&isStatement=0&is24Hour=0>

<https://www.campaignfinanceonline.pa.gov/Pages/ShowReport.aspx?ReportID=290384&isStatement=0&is24Hour=0>

<https://www.campaignfinanceonline.pa.gov/Pages/ShowReport.aspx?ReportID=298819&isStatement=0&is24Hour=0>

The online database, Follow the Money, appears to attribute both the \$250 and the \$150 contributions from me in 2015 to the 2018 election year.

Regarding contributions to the American Association for Justice Political Action Committee (AAJ) from 2016 to 2017 in the total amount of \$1,083.29, I did receive a refund from AAJ in the full amount of \$1,083.29 in 2021. My previous employer, Munley Law, is an active plaintiff personal-injury law firm and has been a long-time member of AAJ, a trial lawyer organization. The members of the firm had a long history

of giving to AAJ. When I was with the firm, I pledged \$1,000 a year paid by monthly auto debits of \$83 from my account. When I became a judge, I ensured that my membership with AAJ ceased but I inadvertently did not discontinue the auto payments. Upon learning of this, I immediately requested and obtained a full refund for the pertinent year even though most of the monthly auto debits occurred during the Code's 4.2(B) exception period referenced above.

If yes,

i. Were you subject to the Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct at the time these contributions were made?

Response: Please see my response to Question 1 above. Furthermore, since I became a judge in August 2016, I have been subject to the Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct and I have adhered to same. Regarding contributions to Mr. Kavulich's campaign, I did not make any contribution in contravention of the Code. Regarding contributions to Mr. Blake's campaign, I did not make any contribution while subject to the Code as I was not a judge in 2015. Regarding contributions to AAJ, I corrected any inadvertent contributions by requesting and receiving a full refund immediately upon learning of same.

ii. With respect to each contribution, please state whether it was a violation of the Pennsylvania Code of Judicial Conduct. Also, please specifically address whether these contributions violate Rule 4.1(a)(4), which provides that a judge shall not "make a contribution to a political organization or a candidate for public office?"

Response: Please see my responses above to Questions 1 and 1(i). Furthermore, Rule 4.1(A) sets forth that, except as permitted by Rules 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4, a judge or judicial candidate shall not engage in certain conduct including that he or she shall not: (4) ... make a contribution to a political organization or a candidate for public office.

Rule 4.2(B) provides an exception that in public elections a candidate for elective judicial office may, unless prohibited by law, and not earlier than immediately after the general election in the year prior to the calendar year in which a person may become a candidate for such office:

- (4) attend or purchase tickets for dinners or other events sponsored by a political organization or a candidate for public office;
- (6) contribute to a political organization or candidate for public office.

- iii. With respect to each contribution, what corrective action, if any, did you take to resolve this violation and when did you take it?**

Response: Please see my responses above to Questions 1, 1(i) and 1(ii).

- 1. With respect to each contribution where you did not take corrective action, please explain why not.**

Response: Please see my responses above to Questions 1, 1(i) and 1(ii).

- iv. Please specifically address the circumstances surrounding the refund from the American Association for Justice PAC in 2021.**

Response: Please see my responses above to Questions 1, 1(i) and 1(ii).

- 2. Did you make any other contributions to a political organization or political candidate while serving as a judge?**

Response: No.