

# Stevens & Lee

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July 19, 2023

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

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

Re: Nomination of United States Magistrate Karoline Mehalchick as U.S. District Judge for the  
United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the nomination of United States Magistrate Judge Karoline Mehalchick to serve as a United States District Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Having served as a member of that esteemed Court for sixteen years, including seven years as that Court's Chief Judge, I know both the demands presented to the Bench of the Middle District of Pennsylvania as well as the qualities that are required to serve the citizens of this great Nation. And having served on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit for more than eight years, I know what is expected of our United States District Judges.

I have had the personal privilege of observing Judge Mehalchick, both in her capacity of a private lawyer and in her role as a United States Magistrate Judge. Based upon my experience and personal acquaintance with Judge Mehalchick I can attest that she has the legal acumen, personal discipline, exceptional work ethic, sense of fairness, and compassion to be an outstanding member of the Federal Judiciary.

Judge Mehalchick appeared before me several times as a lawyer when I served on the Middle District Bench. She was always exceptionally well-prepared and had exquisite knowledge of the law and facts for the matter under consideration. She represented her clients with great zeal while at the same time acting with utmost professionalism towards her opposing counsel and with great respect for the Court.

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I have more recently had the opportunity to observe Judge Mehalchick work with returning citizens who volunteer to participate in the Middle District's Court-Assisted Re-Entry program, known affectionately as the "CARE program." I helped start the Middle District CARE program in 2009, continued to head up the program in the Court's Scranton vicinage after I went on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in 2010 until I retired from the Federal Judiciary in 2019, and now serve as a mentor to CARE participants. Judge Mehalchick is a superb leader of CARE, showing both toughness and compassion as she offers guidance and assistance to those who have broken our Nation's laws, served their prison time, and are now embarking on the difficult journey of re-integrating into our communities. Judge Mehalchick treats each CARE participant with the utmost respect and concern. We are indeed fortunate to have Judge Mehalchick running the CARE program in the Middle District's Scranton vicinage.

In summary, Judge Mehalchick has the character, intellect, discipline, and sense of fairness to fulfill the awesome responsibilities of a United States District Judge, and I am confident that she will uphold the integrity and impartiality that are the hallmarks of the Federal Judiciary.

Respectfully,

STEVENS & LEE

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas I. Vanaskie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "T" and "V".

Hon. Thomas I. Vanaskie (Ret.)

TIV:sab