



# Widener University

## Commonwealth Law School

July 12, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsay Graham  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

Re: The Honorable Karoline Mehalchick, Judicial Nominee to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you with enthusiastic support for the confirmation of Karoline Mehalchick as a judge on the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. As Chief Magistrate Judge for the Middle District, Judge Mehalchick is an esteemed member of the Pennsylvania legal community and would be an asset to the Court in this position. Her experience as a magistrate judge on this court for over 10 years would allow for a seamless transition to the role of District Judge.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Chief Magistrate Judge Karoline Mehalchick for almost 15 years both in a professional and personal capacity. We had the good fortune to work together as members of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Women in the Profession Committee and this included working on initiatives that helped to promote women in the legal profession through a variety of programs. This is a cause that Judge Mehalchick enthusiastically supports and puts into practice on a daily basis. She is always willing to mentor new graduates and provide professional advice to those embarking on their law career.

Judge Mehalchick is an active member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and regularly attends meetings to maintain her relationships with lawyers from across the Commonwealth. In my former role as Executive Director of the Dauphin County Bar Association in Harrisburg, PA, I cannot stress enough how important professional connections are for one's career and I know that Judge Mehalchick supports this view. It is a concept she shares with law students when she speaks to them.

In my role as both Externship Manager and Director of the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP) at Widener Commonwealth Law in Harrisburg, PA, I frequently interact with the Judge as I place law students in her chambers every semester. She is dedicated to ensuring that students have a well-rounded and robust experience as they work with the career clerks under her supervision. Judge Mehalchick also instituted a professional development component for the interns/externs who participate in a Middle District placement in order to further advance the experience that students have at the Middle District Court.

As the program director of ITAP, Judge Mehalchick has graciously agreed to judge the final trials that students participate in at the conclusion of this program and has done so for the past three years. She sets aside a day from her busy schedule for this and drives from Scranton to Harrisburg to work with the students. Her dedication is apparent, and she is purposeful about her critiques, while at the same time, able to put the students at ease. In addition to her work with law students, the Judge has also worked with high school students in mock trial competitions and is supportive of a number of causes that involve children.

Speaking of the Judge's qualifications, competence, integrity, and temperament, I can say nothing but positive things. She is always professional, thoughtful, caring, encouraging, and as for her qualifications and competence for this position, her current record speaks to this. She has been a member of this court as a magistrate judge and then chief magistrate judge for ten years and has done excellent work. As mentioned previously, the transition from Chief Magistrate Judge to District Judge would be seamless and a great benefit to the Court.

In conclusion, I believe that Karoline Mehalchick would fill this role with the dignity and professionalism she has shown in her current role. It is my pleasure to recommend her for this nomination.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth G. Simcox, Esq.  
Externship Manager, Widener Commonwealth Law School, Harrisburg PA