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August 17, 2022

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

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: **KELLEY B. HODGE, ESQ.**
IN SUPPORT OF NOMINATION
JUDICIAL NOMINEE FOR UNITED STATES
DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN
DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Attorney Kelley B. Hodge as an Article III Judge for the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Before I discuss the many positive qualities that Attorney Hodge would bring to the bench as a jurist, I want you to know a bit about me.

I am the 123rd President for the Pennsylvania Bar Association and I served my term in 2017-2018. I was the fourth woman, the first Latina, the first mother, the first ex legal services attorney, and the first Dr. Martin Luther King Intern to serve as President of the largest voluntary state bar association in Pennsylvania. I understand the need for diversity in our profession and the equally important need for public service by all lawyers. Most recently, my commitment to the needs of the indigent and victims of domestic violence was acknowledged by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in appointing me to the Board of the Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (“IOLTA”). The IOLTA Board provides important fiduciary duties so Pennsylvania can provide civil legal services to the Commonwealth’s poor. I care about our profession and the lawyers who work in it, and I serve on the Board of Pennsylvania Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers so that lawyers and judges with addiction or mental health issues can seek confidential life-saving assistance. I care a tremendous amount about the experience lawyers have when they come before jurists and I would only provide a recommendation for a lawyer seeking a judicial position if I felt confident the

potential jurist would treat litigants, court staff, and lawyers with dignity and respect. Kelley Hodge is someone I have complete confidence would serve on the bench with intelligence, humility, and in a manner that would make others feel respected.

I served a three-year term on the PBA Judicial Evaluation Commission, which reviews and rates state appellate court candidates. Governor Wolf appointed me to serve one year on the Governor's Judicial Merit Selection Commission. I also served on the Lancaster Bar Association's Judiciary Committee, which reviews and rates Lancaster County Common Pleas Court judicial candidates. Lancaster County is medium sized bar association with about eight hundred members. Our county is conservative and interested in promoting values that support United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions. The judicial review work I engaged in on the statewide and county level reflected these Lancaster County and Pennsylvania values. Chief Judge Juan R. Sanchez also appointed me to the Merit Selection Panel for a vacant United States Magistrate Judge position that opened in 2020. Of course, the qualifications necessary for state and federal jurists are the same, except for the substantive area of law being distinct in each silo. Each judicial candidate must have the intellectual capacity to interpret and apply established legal principles to specific factual situations and to communicate, both orally and in writing, the reasoning leading to the legal conclusion. Any trial judge should have substantial trial experience and knowledge of the litigation process. Every jurist should have an excellent reputation for good character and integrity and demonstrate the necessary patience and courtesy towards others to indicate positive judicial temperament. In short, I understand the necessary qualifications for a jurist both at the trial level and the appellate level.

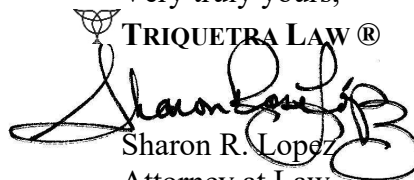
In addition to my leadership roles with the bar association and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, I have also practiced almost exclusively in federal court since July 2006. I have litigated over seventy cases in federal court and several appellate court cases in multiple circuits. I dedicated the first 15 years of my legal career to public interest work at legal services offices in Central Pennsylvania and with the largest statewide anti-domestic violence advocacy organization, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. In 2006 I left public interest work to dedicate myself to working to protect the civil rights of employees and victims of state actor's misconduct by opening Triquetra Law, a private civil rights law firm in Lancaster County. I am a mother of four grown children and one grandchild. I am married to a wonderful supportive man and live in Lancaster County. I believe I am qualified to assess the abilities and qualifications of Kelley B. Hodge and provide you with a recommendation and reference for her potential service on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Kelley B. Hodge has a record of high intellectual ability. She excelled in every area of her education, both in her formal educational settings and on the job. Kelley has served the public good on both sides of the aisle in the criminal legal system both as a public defender and a prosecutor in state court. She excelled in this by showing her reliability, diligence, perseverance, common sense, and attentiveness to clients and the legal system itself. Despite leaving the public sector and beginning her work in a well-known and highly regarded private law firm, Republican Governor Tom Corbett appointed her to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in 2011 for four years. She worked to improve the legal system and demonstrated her excellent administrative skills when she accepted the appointment as the Interim District Attorney for

Philadelphia, following the unfortunate arrest and removal of Seth Williams from that office. She exemplifies someone who has a well-defined sense of justice, compassion, and tact. Kelley has shown her ability to work in many different substantive areas of law and she navigates both the state and federal courts with finesse and persistence. These are all things you have already heard about Kelley. What you have not heard about is her commitment to her family, faith, and friends.

Kelley is sincere and committed to her faith. Whenever I meet with her, it was obvious she has a commitment to compassionate communication and doing the right thing. These values are deeply grounded in her resolve to serve her God. As a mother myself, I see in her a pride and understanding that the children we raise are not mini versions of ourselves, but individuals who deserve respect and patience. As a friend, I know I can call on Kelley to help with projects related to the bar association or special projects. She understands the connection to community and profession is essential to advancing a more just society for all. Because of all the above, she has outstanding ethical standards and is a role model for us all. Indeed, she is just what the Philadelphia District Attorneys Office needed after the abrupt and startling departure of Seth Williams. That is why she was selected for the job. I am so grateful she took on that challenge, as at the time I was living in Philadelphia and commuting to Lancaster. Every member of the legal profession understood we needed a strong, smart, ethical lawyer leader after District Attorney Williams was removed from office.

Kelley is an ideal candidate for this jurist position, and I am confident you will see her light shine when she comes before you for the hearings. I wish you the best as you complete the process, but I know you cannot fail at this because she is the best nominee for this position.

Very truly yours,

Sharon R. Lopez
Attorney at Law

cc. Adam Fontaine via email only to Adam.Fontaine@casey.senate.gov