

January 29, 2023

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
The Honorable Lindsey Graham

Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Durbin, Grassley and Graham,

My name is Kristie Palestino McKenney, and it is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation for Michael A. Delaney for the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. I have known Attorney Delaney for over 13 years.

As the founding Director of the largest Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) in New Hampshire, The Child Advocacy Center of Hillsborough County, I worked closely with Attorney Delaney as he was very involved with and passionate about victim rights and the critical aspect of trauma informed responses to those victims. I became the Director of the State of New Hampshire's CAC Chapter organization called the Granite State Children's Alliance (GSCA) where I had the privilege to work side by side Attorney Delaney to strengthen the State's services for children harmed from sexual abuse. He was always a champion for children and was given the Hands of Hope Award from the GSCA in recognition of his exemplary service and dedication to providing quality services and fair treatment to child victims of crime.

In 2014, I was hired by the National Children's Alliance in Washington DC to be the National Chapter Director and later was promoted to the Director of Membership. In this position, I provided oversight, training, and technical assistance to the over 900 CAC members across the country. I left the National Children's Alliance in 2021 to open a transitional housing program in Manchester, NH for women in crisis due to sexual exploitation, trafficking and substance use disorder called The Light House.

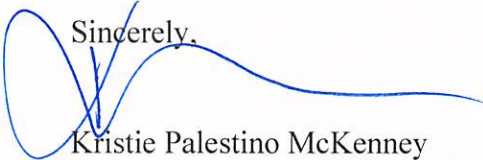
Attorney Delaney had significant impact on our state's fight for reauthorization of the federal Violence Against Women Act. His calm but direct demeanor was evident and essential as he established a multi-disciplinary state commission on human trafficking to address sex trafficking and labor trafficking. I continue to serve on this Task Force today and truly believe that he is responsible for the firm foundation it is laid upon.

New Hampshire has many rural communities and not only did Attorney Delaney support and encourage the strong operations of our rural CACs, but he also helped create the state's first network of Sexual Assault Response Teams to ensure trauma-informed responses to adult sexual assault with specific attention to those rural areas. This is critical because so often those victims get overlooked and are underserved, something that Attorney Delaney fought against.

I was appointed by Governor John Lynch to be a member of the New Hampshire Judicial Selection Commission in 2010. This opportunity taught me a great deal about the importance of character and temperament when it comes to judicial selection. From the moment I first began working with Attorney Delaney through today as associates in the same community, it is without hesitation that I believe his motives to be undoubtedly for justice for all. He is a man with great integrity and uprightness.

Once again, it is without hesitation that I would recommend Michael A. Delaney to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Please reach out to me with any questions or a need for further clarification.

Sincerely,



Kristie Palestino McKenney  
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