



FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
THE PHILADELPHIA MUNICIPAL COURT
JUDICIAL CHAMBERS

MARSHA H. NEIFIELD
JUDGE

THE JUSTICE JUANITA KIDD STOUT CENTER
FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE
1301 FILBERT STREET, SUITE 1306
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107
(215) 683-7214
FAX: (215) 683-7216

August 25, 2022

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

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

Re: *Kelley Brisbon Hodge, Esquire*
Judicial Nominee to the United States District Court for the
Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing this letter in support of Kelley Brisbon Hodge, who has been nominated to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

I have been fortunate to know Ms. Hodge in a professional capacity for approximately eighteen years. As a former president judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court for ten (10) years and a commissioned judge for twenty-four (24) years before taking senior status in January, I can attest to the professional acumen of Ms. Hodge as the Interim District Attorney, Chief and Assistant Chief of the Municipal Court Unit, and as an assistant district attorney.

I first met Ms. Hodge when she was a young assistant district attorney. From day one Ms. Hodge was organized, well prepared, and able to handle the multitude of issues that arise in the courtroom when addressing upward of thirty (30) cases each day. Her interpersonal skills enabled her to interact easily with both police and civilian witnesses. Ms. Hodge demonstrated a strong command of the legal issues and presented arguments in an orderly, cogent manner. She was always respectful to the court, opposing counsel, and personnel in the courtroom.

After several years handling more serious cases, Ms. Hodge returned to the Municipal Court Unit as an assistant chief. In addition to mentoring the newer attorneys in the office, she was a resource to the judges when concerns presented in the courtroom. Kelley was a regular and welcome panelist at our judicial conferences.

When the administrations changed, Ms. Hodge was promoted to chief of the unit. This occurred at the time I was serving as President Judge. The court was in the process of expanding diversion programs, which required the full support of our justice partners. Ms. Hodge was an active participant in innumerable discussions and meetings, adding a reasoned perspective as we balanced the competing needs of treatment and public safety. With Ms. Hodge's input and support we successfully started a specialty court for our Veterans and for women who had been trafficked and exploited. Additionally, we expanded efforts to identify and treat those arrested with serious mental illness.

Although Ms. Hodge left the office to pursue other challenges, when she was selected by the Court of Common Pleas Board of Judges to lead the District Attorney's Office, following the resignation of her predecessor, Ms. Hodge was again a welcome partner, collaborating in the First Judicial District's efforts to implement a grant which further expanded restorative justice initiatives for nonviolent offenders. Through this transition, Ms. Hodge worked tirelessly to restore confidence in the office, while serving the citizens of Philadelphia with integrity and fairness.

Ms. Hodge's experience makes her well qualified to serve as a judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. I am confident she will uphold the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary. Her character, intellect, and calm demeanor will enable her to fulfill the responsibilities of a judge. She fully understands and appreciates differing perspectives and will respectfully engage with everyone.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this information and for your hard work reviewing this highly qualified candidate.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marsha H. Neifield".

Marsha H. Neifield