



April 14, 2021

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Senator Elizabeth Warren
2400 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203
Via Email: Maylin_Heuchling@warren.senate.gov

RE: Endorsement of the Honorable Angel Kelley for appointment to the US District Court of Massachusetts

Senator Warren,

The Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys is the Commonwealth's Latinx/Hispanic bar organization. It is with great enthusiasm that the Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys conveys its strong endorsement for the appointment of the Honorable Judge Angel Kelley to the federal bench. Judge Kelley has been a member of the Massachusetts bar for sixteen years, including eleven as a jurist of distinction. As MAHA is confident that your review of her exemplary record will reveal, Judge Kelley has the qualifications, experience, and judicial philosophy to be an outstanding addition to the federal bar at a historic time in our nation's history when judicial excellence is needed more than ever.

Judge Kelley has served in many positions in her career that have prepared her for elevation to the federal judiciary. Prior to her appointment to the Massachusetts Superior Court bench in 2013, Judge Kelley served on the Commonwealth's District Court for three and a half years. Before her judicial career, Judge Kelley spent 17 years as a trial attorney and teacher. She served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Boston and a clinical instructor at Harvard Law School and Suffolk University Law School. Judge Kelley spent much of her legal career in New York as an effective trial attorney engaged in critical public interest work in the practice areas of civil and criminal defense. Judge Kelley also brings her experience in government law from her time as the Assistant Chief of the New York Litigation division and senior trial attorney for the fast-paced and demanding Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. She also served as trial attorney for the dynamic Legal Aid Society in Brooklyn, New York.



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Judge Kelley continues to be a source of inspiration and pride for our members and our organization. Those of our members who encountered Judge Kelley in the courtroom found a jurist committed to providing a fair and impartial forum, a tradition that garnered Judge Kelley the 2019 American Bar Association Judicial Division Lawyers Conference's Burnham "Hod" Greeley Award. Judge Kelley's former students fondly remember the high expectations demanded of them and the insightful instruction she provided.

The Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys is committed to increasing diversity of the judiciary. Our organization is alarmingly aware that a mere 3.85% (or nine individuals) of President Trump's Article III confirmed judges identified as Black. The appointment of Judge Kelley must be one of many appointments that represent an effort to continue to diversify the federal bench, particularly with Black and Latinx candidates. We are also keenly aware that there have not been any appointments of Latinx federal judges, or magistrate judges, in the entire history of Article III judges in Massachusetts.

Judge Kelley is well respected by all who have worked with her whether as co-counsel, opposing counsel, or litigants before her as a judge in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She maintains the deportment required of trial judges in arriving at fair and equitable decisions. Though no doubt a reflection of her intellect and compassion as a jurist, it perhaps serves most as a testament to her character and approach to the law that Judge Kelley has earned the respect and adoration of students, peers, and practitioners alike. Her writing skills are excellent, and she presents logical and cogent explanations for the legal conclusions that she reaches. Her ethics are beyond reproach, her commitment to the legal profession is demonstrable, and her diligence to duty is outstanding.

Sincerely,

Breanishea Amaya, President

C.c. Honorable Nancy Gertner
Senator Edward Markey

