

August 1, 2022

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

This letter is to offer our strong support for confirmation of Kelley Hodge to serve as a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

We are attorneys who served as opposing counsel to Kelley during her tenure as Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. In this capacity we have had the opportunity to interact with Kelley on numerous criminal trials and other court proceedings. We have interacted with Kelley both in and out of court at various committee meetings and bar association events. Many of us also worked with Kelley on a major project that came to fruition in July 2009, the First Judicial District's Mental Health Court, specifically designed to serve the needs of our justice-connected mental health population. Kelley served as a main Assistant District Attorney with the specialized court, vetting appropriate candidates and considering mitigating factors to divert individuals with mental health needs into the mental health system to help reduce recidivism in the criminal justice system.

Working with opposing counsel in criminal cases can be difficult due to the complicated and sensitive matters and issues at hand. Each side comes with a passionate belief and conviction, along with a vested interest in the outcome of each case. We found that Kelley, while maintaining her position on matters, took the time to listen to the opposing side, consider mitigating factors and in turn explain her reasoning in kind. She has always been fair, honest and demonstrates the integrity and professionalism that those in our profession look to see as jurists in our Courts.

We write to express our belief that given her experience, knowledge and work ethic, Kelley will be an impartial, well-prepared and reasoned jurist. We offer our support for her nomination and confirmation.

Signed:

Luna K. Pattela, Lenora Clayton and Bruni Vargas