

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC. 20510

August 30, 2022

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing to voice my strong and enthusiastic support for the nomination of Kelley Hodge to serve as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Kelley is a seasoned practitioner of law and experienced trial attorney with over fifteen years of courtroom experience handling a wide variety of cases of varying levels of severity. Kelley also brings a wealth of executive managerial experience as the District Attorney of Philadelphia, a Senior Assistant Public Defender, an Assistant District Attorney, and as the Safe Schools Advocate for the School District of Philadelphia. Kelley has a very diverse background as an accomplished litigator, trial attorney, and compliance advisory with two decades of experience of higher education, investigations, school safety, civil rights, labor and employment, criminal law, and state and federal policymaking.

As the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), I have had the opportunity to work in various capacities with Kelley for over ten years. PCCD serves as the justice planning and policymaking agency for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. PCCD's mission is to enhance the quality, coordination, and planning within the criminal and juvenile justice systems, to facilitate the delivery of services to victims of crime, and to increase the safety of our communities.

During her time with PCCD, Kelley served and provided leadership in two critical roles with our agency: the Safe Schools Advocate for the School District of Philadelphia and the Acting Director of the PCCD Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. As the Safe Schools Advocate, Kelley helped and supported victims of crime and violence. Kelley was also instrumental in reestablishing an office that was tasked with assuring the accuracy of the school district's reporting of crime data, advocated for those who had been victims of crime while at school, worked with the school district to implement strategies, and worked to eliminate barriers that impeded improving school safety. This work also included addressing the concerns of parents/guardians, students, and teachers who had been victimized or witnessed the victimization of a person in a school-based setting.

In her role as Acting Director of the PCCD Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Kelley provided leadership and oversight in the administration of federal and state funds geared toward juvenile justice system improvement and delinquency prevention. In addition, this Office was responsible for compliance with the core requirements of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act as well as the reporting requirements and related provisions of the Act. Kelley also serves as a member of the PCCD County Adult Probation and Parole Standards Subcommittee.

In those roles with our agency, Kelley demonstrated excellent leadership and commitment to achieving our overall mission and always striving for a fair and equitable justice system.

Kelley was always thoroughly prepared and demonstrated the judgement and dedication to serve as an outstanding judge on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Her diverse experience and training will be a tremendous asset while serving on the bench.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael D. Pennington". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of each name being prominent and the last name ending in a long horizontal stroke.

Michael D. Pennington

Executive Director

PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency