



# PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

Founded 1912

2929 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 • Phone (717) 238-5416 • Fax (717) 231-3912 • www.pdaa.org

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September 6, 2022

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United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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## RE: Support Letter for Nomination of Kelley Hodge

MATTHEW D. WEINTRAUB  
Bucks County

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

DAVID W. SUNDAY, JR.  
York County

On behalf of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association (PDAA), we are writing to express our strong support for the nomination of Kelley Hodge to be a federal judge in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Kelley possesses so many important qualities that lead us to conclude that she will be an excellent jurist. Indeed, many members of our Association know Kelley personally and have seen first-hand her talents, fairness and humility.

KATIE CHARLTON  
Armstrong County

MARK J. POWELL  
Lackawanna County

As an assistant district attorney in Philadelphia, Kelley excelled. For those that knew and worked with her then, they witnessed a fair and thoughtful individual, who rose from being a line assistant district attorney to a supervising assistant district attorney. Kelley knew how to assess and try cases, how to ensure that the right person was being prosecuted, and how to make sure that victims at all times were treated appropriately and fairly. As a supervisor, Kelley helped to train younger prosecutors and, in so doing, helped them to understand the importance of ethics, fairness, public safety, and treating victims with compassion.

MICHAEL A. O'PAKE  
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DEBORAH RYAN  
Chester County

JOHN T. ADAMS  
Berks County  
Communications Chair

As Safe Schools Advocate for Philadelphia, Kelley's talents continued to shine. Those who worked with her in this position saw her dedication in trying to improve school safety in Philadelphia, her patience and tenacity in working with a diverse and varied group of stakeholders, and her fundamental belief in the connection between education and public safety.

FRANCIS T. CHARDO  
Dauphin County  
Legislative Chair

STEPHEN A. ZAPPALA, JR.  
Allegheny County  
Appellate Chair

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GREG ROWE, ESQUIRE

As Acting District Attorney in Philadelphia, many more of our members had the pleasure of working with Kelley directly. Kelley's leadership skills shined during a challenging time in the District Attorney's Office in Philadelphia. Kelley became the Acting District Attorney following her predecessor's resignation when he was criminally convicted in federal court. Kelley was



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appointed by the judges in Philadelphia because they, too, knew of and appreciated both her excellent reputation and her outstanding talents. Kelley quickly assembled a strong leadership team; she ensured that the District Attorney's Office continued to function well; she was reassuring and engaged; she was humble and focused. And ultimately, she took the time to understand what the hundreds of assistant district attorneys and support staff needed during this very trying time in the office.

Her success did not come by accident or through luck. Kelley worked hard; she met with staff; she worked with important stakeholders and community members; and she sought data and information to help inform her decision-making process. She was a reassuring leader. She demanded excellence and exuded kindness. She set high expectations of her staff and for herself. And she rightly made sure that everyone who worked in the office knew that they, along with her, remained accountable to the people of Philadelphia and that their jobs of preserving public safety, holding wrongdoers accountable, abiding by all the applicable rules, doing right by victims, and being equitable and just continued unabated.

Kelley has continued her public service after leaving the role of District Attorney. One example is her service as one of the Board of Directors for a child advocacy center—Mission Kids—where her background and experience has helped guide the center to new heights and helped expand its reach into issues facing our communities, like human trafficking.

We hope that this letter demonstrates how supremely excellent Kelley's work has been for so many years. If Kelley is confirmed, litigants who come before her will find a kind, thoughtful, professional and intelligent individual who is fair and impartial. They will find someone who simultaneously cares deeply about victims and about the constitutional rights guaranteed to the accused. They will find someone who appreciates legal research and strong advocacy, someone well-versed in both criminal and civil law, someone who suffers no fools, but someone who at all times possesses a calm temperament and professional demeanor.

These are all characteristics that members of the PDAA have seen in Kelley throughout her career in Pennsylvania. The Kelley Hodge you are getting to know is the Kelley Hodge we have known for so long. Our appreciation and admiration for Kelley is unequivocal, and we are so pleased she has been nominated to the federal bench. We appreciate your consideration of our views.

Very truly yours,

Kevin R. Steele  
President, PDAA  
Montgomery County District Attorney

Greg A. Rowe  
Executive Director, PDAA