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February 8, 2012

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Honorable Robert P. Casey
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Patrick J. Toomey
United States Senate
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Potential Nomination of Gerald McHugh, Jr. to the
United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Dear Senators:

We send this letter as attorneys whose practices have focused on the defense of civil claims. All of us have served as representatives of the defense bar, either as President of the Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel or its statewide counterpart, the Pennsylvania Defense Institute.

It is sometimes said that the most revealing assessment of a lawyer comes from his or her opponents. The attorney about whom we write, Jerry McHugh, has represented mostly plaintiffs in civil litigation, with some exceptions including his notable defense of Drexel College of Medicine. Thus, we know Jerry principally as our opponent in cases and as a leader of the plaintiffs' bar. Having worked with him from the opposite side of the courtroom, we lend our unqualified support to the prospect of his appointment to the bench.

Jerry has distinguished himself not just in the results he has obtained for his clients, but also in his teaching, writing, and service to the profession. His integrity is unquestioned, and his word is his bond. The fact that he is regularly sought out as both a mediator and arbitrator attests to his reputation for fairness. In the eyes of many lawyers, he sets the standard for professionalism within the trial bar.

Honorable Robert P. Casey
Honorable Patrick J. Toomey
Page 2
February 8, 2012

CONRAD O'BRIEN PC

To have a lawyer of his experience and caliber assume the bench would represent judicial selection at its finest.

Respectfully,

/s/

Norbet Bergholtz
Retired

Howard M. Klein
Conrad O'Brien PC

Joseph T. Bodell, Jr.
Bodell, Bové, Grace & Van Horn, P.C.

Richard Kolb
White and Williams PC

Butler Buchanan, III
Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin

Peter S. Miller
Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin

Robert Casey
Robert J. Casey, Jr. & Associates

William J. O'Brien
Conrad O'Brien PC

Nicholas M. Centrella
Conrad O'Brien PC

Michael Plevyak

Armand J. Della Porta, Jr.
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Gibbons PC

Joseph M. Hankins
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Andrew Susko
White and Williams PC

Peter J. Hoffman
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC

Gerald J. Valentini
Deasey Mahoney Valentini & North, Ltd.