

THE HONORABLE THOMAS F. BURKE, JR. (Ret.)
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May 15, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Judge Julia K. Munley
Judicial Nominee to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Judge Julia K. Munley, who has been nominated to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

By way of my own background, after completion of my education and military service with the U.S. Army in the Republic of Vietnam, I was engaged in the private practice of law for 25 years and, thereafter, served as a Pennsylvania State Trial Judge in the 11th Judicial District of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Luzerne County) for almost 24 years (including five years as president judge) until my retirement in December of 2021.

It was during the early years of my judicial tenure that I came to know Judge Munley, who appeared before me while representing clients in various civil litigation matters. I had a firsthand opportunity to observe her talents both inside and outside trial settings for the better part of 15 years. Without question, she was a skilled and staunch advocate for her clients. At the same time, Judge Munley always maintained the highest standards of civility in interacting with her adversaries as well as the utmost respect for the Court and the institution of the judiciary. Judge Munley's command of the law, coupled with her interpersonal skills, served her clients' interests very well in a number of cases before me. She showed herself to be a consummate professional who demonstrated superior legal acumen, both intellectually and practically.

I considered it as a natural progression of her legal career when Judge Munley ascended to the Lackawanna County Bench in 2016 by way of her interim appointment and resounding election, thereafter, to a full ten-year term. I always enjoyed my relationship with Judge Munley as a colleague (in a neighboring county), particularly the lengthy chats we would have at the semi-annual state trial judge conferences. It was clear to me that she had quickly adopted the mindset allowing her to switch gears from that of being an advocate to the impartial role of tribunal. Moreover, it was evident that, early on during her judicial tenure, she had worked hard to expand her legal horizons to cover the many diverse areas of law that come before the trial court. I was

duly impressed to see her as a co-presenter at one of the seminars offered at the state conference during her second year on the bench.

In addition to my own favorable impressions of Judge Munley as noted above, I have heard from numerous lawyers who have appeared before her of Judge Munley's competence, knowledge of the law, even-handed demeanor and commitment to the fair and impartial administration of justice. Moreover, it is a consensus view shared by lawyers and fellow jurists alike that Judge Munley's character and integrity are beyond reproach.

I very much appreciate this opportunity to share my thoughts regarding the nomination of Judge Munley for the federal bench and thank you for your consideration of this highly qualified candidate.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas F. Burke, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Thomas F. Burke, Jr.