

DEMOCRAT  
**Kelly Eckel**  
for **JUDGE**

*Experienced. Impartial. Independent.*

PAID FOR AND AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT KELLY ECKEL

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Yesterday, when speaking about legal proceedings against the perpetrator of the recent terror attack in New York, President Trump said: "We need quick justice and we need strong justice — much quicker and much stronger than we have right now. Because what we have right now is a joke and it's a laughing stock."

Kelly Eckel offers the following rebuttal to President Trump and his disparagement of our Nation's judicial system:

As an active participant in our justice system in a variety of roles for the past 20 years, I am appalled at the labeling by the leader of our Nation of that system as a "joke" and a "laughing stock."

I had the honor and privilege to serve as a judicial law clerk more than 20 years ago (in two different courthouses in our nation's justice system), where I worked with two highly distinguished federal judicial officers, both appointed by Republican U.S. Presidents. In their judicial chambers, I learned about how our justice system is supposed to work—and how it does work in many instances—and how the many component parts of our justice system function together to achieve justice for all.

For judges, this means, among other things, reaching decisions after giving each party a full and fair hearing and applying the law equally to all who come before the court. For attorney advocates—and I have been such an advocate in courts throughout the Nation for twenty years—this means understanding both the client's position and the law that applies to the dispute, in order to advance (as forcefully as the ethical rules governing lawyers' conduct permit) arguments to achieve the client's goal in the litigation.

Based on my experience both as an attorney advocate and as a member of court judicial staff, I know that cases travel through the justice system at different rates depending on many different factors including but not limited to the nature of the case, the amounts at issue, and the rights of individuals involved in or implicated by the dispute. Rules established by various governing bodies, statutes, and laws, many of which have stood for decades, exist to ensure that cases travel through our justice system in a way that ensures that each party receives the previously mentioned full and fair hearing. These laws and rules also help to ensure the due process of law guaranteed to every person by our Constitution.

As a private judge for nearly a decade in my function as a neutral arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association, I carefully observe strict codes of ethics and standards of conduct that put a premium on fairness and impartiality in conflict management. Each time I serve as an arbitrator, I make a sworn commitment to administer justice. I do so ever mindful of the fundamental principle that my early judicial mentors instilled in me: to ensure that each party has a full and fair hearing (regardless of background or affiliation), and to apply the law fairly and equally, without bias or partiality, to all who come before me.

President Trump's statement that our centuries-old justice system is a "joke" and a "laughing stock" is an affront to the members of the judiciary who swear to uphold the laws and administer justice according to those laws, to the attorney advocates who work tirelessly within that system to achieve the best result possible for their clients, and to the people of our Nation, many of whom come before the court—whether as parties, witnesses, members of a jury, or public observers—to either have, or be a participant in, the "day in court" that the Constitution and laws of our Nation guarantee. This system, and the equality under the law it strives to ensure, is an important part of what truly makes America great.

I am proud to have become an active participant in the judicial system of this great Nation as a judicial employee, an attorney advocate, and as a private judge, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to preside over matters in the same impartial manner that the law requires.—KDE