

February 20, 2019

I am delighted to renew my endorsement of Kelly Eckel for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Delaware County. Intelligent, experienced, with an impartial and practical approach to judicial issues, Kelly has the strength of independence to interpret and apply the law fairly without being beholden to any group or special interest.

Kelly ran an impressive race in the last municipal campaign for this office just two years ago, coming within one point of winning against an opponent with far greater name recognition and resources than Kelly. Her resilience and strength, both during that campaign and in embarking on another attempt, speaks volumes about her character. The way that she ran her campaign in 2017—with integrity and truth—is equally remarkable, and bodes well for her present campaign. And, the fact that Kelly earned the trust and support of nearly 63,000 voters in Delaware County—a record number by a significant margin for a Democratic candidate seeking this position—suggests to me, as a former candidate in Delaware County, that Kelly’s message was strong and that she can win this race in 2019.

As I noted in my endorsement of her candidacy previously, of great value in her stellar 20-plus year law career, Kelly serves as a highly respected arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association (AAA), where she has served private parties in an impressive judicial capacity—hearing their cases, making binding rulings, and judging the private trial of their disputes – exactly the type of experience and judgment needed in the Court of Common Pleas. Kelly also brings unique judicial experience through her service as a mediator for landlord-tenant disputes through the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Landlord Tenant Appellate Mediation Program.

Kelly’s entire career is one of service, honor and exemplary distinction. From valedictorian of her high school and captain of its varsity swimming team, to Harvard undergrad and Temple Law School where she served as Managing Editor of the Temple Law Review and a member of the Moot Court Honor Society, she has always dedicated herself to excellence, from academics to community involvement. This commitment to life-long service continues even today by her volunteer work for the Suburban Seahawks Club in Newtown Square, where she has served on the Executive Board, as well as by serving as the coordinator of her law firm’s participation in a public service program through which Kelly oversees young lawyers’ handling of a variety of civil rights cases on a *pro bono* basis.

The people of Delaware County will be well-served by a judge who will serve with integrity, impartiality and excellence, traits rooted in Kelly’s parents as seen in the service of her father, a U.S. Army Colonel (RETIRED). It is Kelly Eckel’s obvious life of unrelenting service based upon these attributes that no doubt will earn her not just my endorsement, but that of the citizens of Delaware County by their votes in 2019. She is an outstanding candidate for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and I most highly recommend her service as Judge to the citizens of Delaware County.



Joe Sestak
Former Navy Admiral and United States Congressman