

SAMUEL C. STRETTON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
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610-696-4243
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May 11, 2020

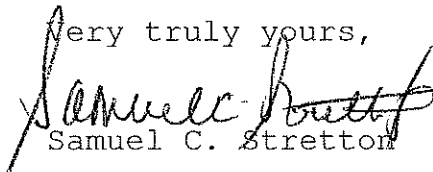
Cathy Kane, Court Administrator
Court of Judicial Discipline
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 5500
P.O. Box 62595
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2595

Re: In Re: Judge Scott DiClaudio
3 JD 2019

Dear Ms. Kane:

Please be advised I represent the Respondent, Judge Scott DiClaudio. I have enclosed for filing the original and three (3) copies the List of Character Witnesses and character letters of the Respondent, Judge Scott DiClaudio.

I will be sending under separate cover a List of Exhibits.

Very truly yours,

Samuel C. Stretton

SCS:jac

Enc.

Cc: Melissa L. Norton, Esquire
Joseph U. Metz, Esquire
Honorable Scott DiClaudio

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS, OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

IN RE: : DOCKET NO. 3 JD 2019
:
JUDGE SCOTT DiCLAUDIO :
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS :
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT :
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY :

LIST OF CHARACTER LETTERS AND CHARACTER WITNESSES
ON BEHALF OF JUDGE DiCLAUDIO

The Respondent, Judge DiClaudio, by his counsel, Samuel C. Stretton, Esquire, respectfully submits the following character letters on his behalf, which will be presented at the time of the hearing on June 2, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. by WebEx. Further submitted are the names of the witnesses who will testify and exhibits.

- R-1 Joseph Auddino, Esquire
- R-2 Donald Bermudez and Mildred Isaac Bermudez
- R-3 Peter C. Bowers, Esquire
- R-4 Angelo Cameron, Esquire
- R-5 Justin C. Capek, Esquire
- R-6 Walter C. Chisholm, Esquire
- R-7 Margeaux Cigainero, Esquire
- R-8 Raymond C. Driscoll, Esquire
- R-9 Jeremy-Evan Alva, Esquire
- R-10 Mark Feinman, Esquire
- R-11 Richard J. Giuliani, Esquire

R-12 David S. Glanzberg, Esquire
R-13 Zak T. Goldstein, Esquire
R-14 Leon D. Goodman, Esquire
R-15 Matthew S. Hagarty, Esquire
R-16 Brian F. Humble, Esquire
R-17 Shannon Jones, Court Clerk
R-18 Valerie Jones, Esquire
R-19 Charles H. Junod, Jr., Esquire
R-20 Max G. Kramer, Esquire
R-21 Annette Lebron, Judicial Secretary
R-22 R. Patrick Link, Esquire
R-23 James Lloyd, Esquire
R-24 John Mackara
R-25 Andre McCoy, Major (Ret), MBA
R-26 Edward C. Meehan, Jr., Esquire
R-27 David B. Mischak, Esquire
R-28 Carmen C. Nasuti, III, Esquire
R-29 Deborah Nixon, Esquire
R-30 Joe O'Donnell, Esquire
R-31 Gregory J. Pagano, Esquire
R-32 Michael Parkinson, Esquire
R-33 Fortunato N. Perri, Jr, Esquire
R-34 A. Charles Peruto, Jr., Esquire
R-35 Anthony J. Petrone, Esquire

- R-36 Matt Reilly, Esquire
- R-37 Amato T. Sanita, Esquire
- R-38 Geoffrey V. Seay, Esquire
- R-39 Scott Sigman, Esquire
- R-40 Gary S. Silver, Esquire
- R-41 Jeff Snyder, Esquire
- R-42 Nicholas Stampone, Court Clerk
- R-43 S. Philip Steinberg, Esquire
- R-44 Jules Szanto, Esquire
- R-45 Timothy Tarpey, Esquire
- R-46 Eugene P. Tinari, Esquire
- R-47 Robert Trimble, Esquire
- R-48 Brunilda Vargas, Esquire
- R-49 David M. Walker, Esquire
- R-50 Daniel Zachariah
- R-51 Aaron Bell, Esquire
- R-52 Berto M. Elmore, Esquire

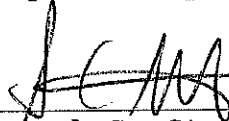
**LIST OF WITNESSES WHO WILL TESTIFY IN PERSON DURING THE HEARING
ON CHARACTER, ACTIVITY AS A JUDGE AND TYPE OF PERSON**

1. Retired Judge Benjamin Lerner
2. Retired Judge Chris Wogan
3. David Glanzberg, Esquire
4. Brian McMonagle, Esquire
5. Shaka Johnson, Esquire

6. Damion McLourin
7. Gabe DiClaudio (daughter)

The Respondent, Judge Scott DiClaudio, reserve the right to add additional character letters and witnesses.

Respectfully submitted,



Samuel C. Stretton, Esquire
Attorney for the Respondent,
Judge Scott DiClaudio
103 South High Street
P.O. Box 3231
West Chester, PA 19381-3231
(610) 696-4243
Attorney I.D. No. 18491

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

IN RE: : DOCKET NO. 3 JD 2019
:
JUDGE SCOTT DiCLAUDIO :
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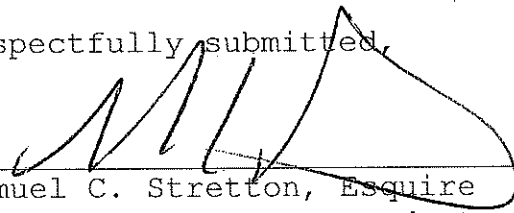
CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I, Samuel C. Stretton, Esquire, certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania: Case Records of the Appellate and Trial Courts* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Respectfully submitted,

5/12/21

Date



Samuel C. Stretton, Esquire
Attorney for the Respondent,
Honorable Scott DiClaudio
103 South High Street
P.O. Box 3231
West Chester, PA 19381-3231
(610) 696-4243
Attorney I.D. No. 18491

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE

IN RE: : DOCKET NO. 3 JD 2019
:
JUDGE SCOTT DiCLAUDIO :
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS :
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT :
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY :

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify I am this date serving a copy of the foregoing List of Character Witnesses on behalf of the Respondent in the captioned matter upon the following persons in the manner indicated below.

Service by email & First-Class Mail addressed as follows:

1. Cathy Kane, Court Administrator
Court of Judicial Discipline
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 5500
P.O. Box 62595
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2595
Cathy.Kane@pacourts.us

Service by email addressed as follows:

2. Melissa L. Norton, Esquire
Deputy Counsel
Judicial Conduct Board
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
P.O. Box 52525
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2525
Melissa.norton@jcbpa.org

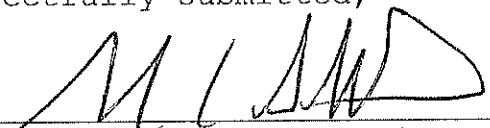
3. Joseph U. Metz, Esquire
Chief Counsel
Court of Judicial Discipline
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 550
P.O. Box 62595
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2595
Joseph.Metz@pacourts.us

4. Honorable Scott DiClaudio
Criminal Justice Center
1301 Filbert Street
Suite 1415
Philadelphia, PA 19107
sdiclaudio13@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,

5/12/21

Date



Samuel C. Stretton, Esquire
Attorney for the Respondent,
Judge Scott DiClaudio
103 South High Street
P.O. Box 3231
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(610) 696-4243
Attorney I.D. No. 18491

MARINO ASSOCIATES

Practice Dedicated to Litigation Matters

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
301 WHARTON STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19147
Telephone: 215-462-3200
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www.marinoassociates.net

March 16, 2021

Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania
601 Commonwealth Ave
Suite 3500
P.O. Box 62525
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0901

Subject: The Honorable Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas Judge Scott DiClaudio

To whom it may concern:

I am member of the Pennsylvania Bar, in good standing, admitted to practice law 2013. I served as Assistant District Attorney for the City of Philadelphia during the calendar years 2014 through 2017. In or around May of 2017 I entered private practice. My private practice concentrates on matters involving litigation. During my tenure as a prosecutor and as an attorney practicing in the private sector I have appeared before the Honorable Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas Judge Scott DiClaudio well in excess of one hundred (100) occasions.

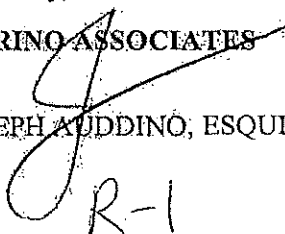
It has been my experience appearing before Judge DiClaudio, whether serving the role of a prosecutor or the role of a defense attorney, that he exercised appropriate judicial demeanor, temperament, and balance. The rulings he entered were steadily well reasoned, consistent with law, and reliable. Judge DiClaudio always demonstrated fairness and a respect for the dignity of witnesses and attorneys who appeared before him. Without question, Judge DiClaudio was consistently fair and maintained dialogue with all parties in his courtroom that demonstrated an understanding of common sense, human nature and mutual respect.

I regard Judge DiClaudio as a man firmly committed to values of the common good and make myself available for comment to anyone passing judgment on his judicial demeanor and fitness.

Very truly,

~~MARINO ASSOCIATES~~

JOSEPH A. UDDINO, ESQUIRE



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NINO V. TINARI & ASSOCIATES
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
1528 WALNUT STREET
12TH FLOOR

NINO V. TINARI
MIA C. TINARI
DONALD BERMUDEZ

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19102
nino@ntinarilaw.com

215-790-4010
Fax: 215-790-4002

Judicial Conduct Board
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Ave. Ste. # 3500
PO Box 62525
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Hon. Scott DiClaudio 3/29/21

To the Board,

I have been a member of the bar in Pennsylvania since October of 2014. I have known Scott DiClaudio first as member of the private bar when I began accepting court appointments in the Municipal Court of Philadelphia in 2015. I knew him in passing as one of the many familiar faces at the courthouse at 1301 Filbert St. As a new attorney, I often would ask more experienced attorneys for advice on any number of issues; Scott was one of those lawyers a few times. He was cordial, nice and informative to me, when I was a complete stranger to him.

As a judge, DiClaudio has been ideal in my opinion. He has had a tremendous respect for due process and the rights of defendants to be heard in court. From January 2017 until the time of COVID in March, 2020 I had the opportunity to observe DiClaudio as a judge hundreds of times as I appeared in courtroom at least once or twice per week during that period. At that time, the judge ran a pretrial room, and his lists were lengthy. Regardless of that, he always gave each defendant, his counsel, and the Commonwealth enough time to be heard and to make arguments. The judge never gave the impression that he was not listening to what was being said, and the issue at hand was always taken seriously and sincerely. It is a good thing for the people of this Commonwealth to have a judge who enjoys taking his time with each case and doing the right thing in accordance with the law.

When my wife first came permanently to this country in 2018 she came with me to the Philadelphia criminal courthouse for work one day; the judge did not know I was doing this. I had to appear in his courtroom that day, and when I did appear in his court, I told him I brought my wife to observe as she wanted to see an American courtroom. Scott took out a minute from his very busy day to personally and privately welcome her to this country. Since that day, my wife has always said "that judge is a good judge, they do not have judges like that in Liberia" her home country.

Sincerely,

/s/

/s/

Donald Bermudez and Mildred Isaac Bermudez

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PETER BOWERS, PC[™]
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

THE MILLER BUILDING, SUITE 100
441 NORTH FIFTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19123

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PETER C. BOWERS, ESQUIRE
ALEXANDER J. GINSBURG, ESQUIRE

April 2, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

RE: Honorable Scott DiClaudio

I write this letter in support of Judge Scott DiClaudio who I have known professionally for more than 20 years. When I first met him, he was a hardworking, well prepared, excellent trial lawyer, engaged in private practice before his elevation to the Bench.

I have worked as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia from 1972 through 1978. Since 1978, I have operated my own law firm focusing on criminal defense and personal injury matters in Philadelphia and surrounding counties. I have appeared before Judge DiClaudio many times for all sorts of criminal matters including jury trial motions, guilty pleas, sentencings, and violation of probation matters. In my experience, he always makes the "right call" in matters that appear before Him.

The Commonwealth and the defense bar almost uniformly agree that Judge DiClaudio is a compassionate, intelligent, and effective Judge. He is well versed in the law and his arguments are often humorous. Because of these traits, both the Commonwealth and the defense admire Him for His demeanor and fairness.

Indeed, the public perception of Judge DiClaudio as revealed by their comments on and off the record, demonstrate their satisfaction in the manner in which he adjudicated their matters.

For all of these reasons, I ask for Your consideration of this letter. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter C. Bowers, Esquire

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A. LEE CAMERON, LLC

Angelo L. Cameron, Attorney at Law
Land Title Building
100 South Broad Street, Suite 1830
Philadelphia, PA 19102 E-Mail

Direct: 215-880-5162 & Texts

Telephone: 215-880-5162
Facsimile: 215-564-3070
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angelocameron@msn.com

ADMITTED TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

March 17, 2021
Judicial Conduct Board
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 5500
Harrisburg, Pa. 17106

RE: Honorable Scott DiClaudio

To The Honorable Judges of the Judicial Conduct Board:

I am writing this letter of support, on behalf of Judge Scott DiClaudio. I have appeared in front of him many times, as my practice is mainly criminal defense. Each, and every appearance in his courtroom, he has shown knowledge of the law, shown fairness to me, my client, as well as the Commonwealth. He has in my opinion demonstrated a high level of judicial temperament, in that he listens to the defense, the Commonwealth and rules in a fair and just manner. He is respectful, patient, compassionate, and courteous. Therefore, I pray, and respectfully request, that you take into consideration this letter of support, when you rule in his case before you.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Angelo L. Cameron, Esquire

Cc: Honorable Scott DiClaudio

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SCHATZ & STEINBERG P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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LAURA J. LEVENBERG*
[LLEVENBERG@S2FIRM.COM](mailto:llevenberg@s2firm.com)

JUSTIN C. CAPEK*
[JCAPEK@S2FIRM.COM](mailto:jcapek@s2firm.com)

SCOTT A. QUINN
[SQUINN@S2FIRM.COM](mailto:squinn@s2firm.com)

JONATHAN D. ROSENAU*
[JROSENAU@S2FIRM.COM](mailto:jrosenau@s2firm.com)

ALAN KAPLAN
[AKAPLAN@S2FIRM.COM](mailto:akaplan@s2firm.com)

* ALSO MEMBER OF NJ BAR

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD

601 Commonwealth Avenue
Suite #3500
Harrisburg, PA, 1720

**RE: The Honorable Scott DiClaudio
Letter of Endorsement**

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please accept this letter of recommendation on behalf of Judge Scott DiClaudio of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, before whom I have had the distinct pleasure of practicing criminal law during the entirety of my career as a criminal defense attorney. It is without reservation that I endorse Judge DiClaudio's impartiality, fairness, and legal acumen in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. I am confident that maintaining his tenure on the bench would greatly benefit the legal profession, and, more importantly, the community as a whole.

Shortly after passing the bar exam in 2017, I began practicing criminal defense in Philadelphia County and have litigated dozens of cases before Judge DiClaudio. Regardless of the final disposition of case, Judge DiClaudio is always fair, just, and equitable to all parties, including the defendants on his probation. By way of further information, I litigated a complex Motion to Suppress Evidence in which I felt the outlined issues were meritorious. Judge DiClaudio permitted the Assistant District Attorney and I to fully explore all averments in the motion through elicited testimony of the law enforcement witnesses. Prior to rendering a decision, he directed the Assistant District Attorney and I to supplement our argument with formal memorandums of law. Thereafter, he denied my Motion to Suppress, and although I was not thrilled at the time, I realized later it was the proper legal decision. This was my first Motion to Suppress in a "majors" courtroom and Judge DiClaudio exemplified fairness and equity in all aspects of the matter. Furthermore, I appreciated

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his unfaltering commitment to the letter of the law throughout the entire proceeding. On no uncertain terms, it was a learning experience that I am grateful for, and one which continues to motivate me to be a better advocate for my clients.

In that vein, I have similarly appeared countless times before Judge DiClaudio for scheduling conferences, non-trial dispositions, bail motions, and petitions under the Post-Conviction Relief Act. Not once did I ever experience nor witness any impartiality or favoritism in his courtroom. He is committed to his duties as a duly elected Judge and strives to better our community in this role.

More specifically, the Philadelphia community is better served with Judge DiClaudio presiding over criminal cases in the city. His stringent supervision of his probationers and his personal commitment to their success ingrains in them a motivation to stay on the straight and narrow path without faltering back into the realm of criminality. It is always a pleasant scene in court when Judge DiClaudio terminates a defendant's probation after that individual goes above and beyond to give back to his community in an effort to atone for his wrongdoings. His judicial philosophy in this regard engenders tangible societal benefits, and fosters trust in our judicial system.

Based on the foregoing, it is without hesitation that I encourage you to abstain from sanctioning Judge DiClaudio and allow a dedicated public servant to continue his tenure in the Philadelphia community.

My contact information is 856 304 4629 and JCapek@S2Firm.com should you have additional questions.

Very Respectfully,



JUSTIN C. CAPEK, ESQUIRE

Licensed: PA & NJ Bars Since 1988

Admitted: US Supreme Court, US 3rd Appeals,
PA & NJ Federal Courts

WALTER C. CHISHOLM
ATTORNEY AT LAW
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
928 E. SLOCUM STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19150-3608
CELL: 215-837-7087
EMAIL: WALTERCCHISHOLM@VERIZON.NET

March 6, 2021

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF REFERENCE FOR THE HONORABLE
SCOTT DICLAUDIO OF THE PHILADELPHIA COURT OF
COMMON PLEAS**

I have been requested to write a letter of reference for the Honorable Scott DiClaudio. At first, when asked to write on Judge DiClaudio's behalf, I was humbled, and wondered if I was even in a position to write a reference letter for Judge DiClaudio. Next, after reflection, I realized that this is an honorable and forthright endeavor because of my long knowledge of Judge DiClaudio's character, judicial and legal capabilities and my unwavering respect for him.

By way of background I have been a licensed Pennsylvania and New Jersey attorney since 1988. I am currently admitted before the United States Supreme Court, the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals and Pennsylvania and New Jersey U.S. District Courts.

I am the owner of my own bustling law practice Chisholm Law Practice. I am a Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas Judge *Pro Tem*. In the past I have worked as assistant counsel to the New Jersey Casino Control Commission, assistant district attorney with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office; and way back in law school I interned with the Philadelphia Defender's Office.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Judge DiClaudio since the 1990's when he was first an assistant district attorney with the

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Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, and thereafter when Judge DiClaudio was in private practice as a criminal defense attorney. During that time, I would see Judge DiClaudio daily in courtrooms in the Stout Criminal Justice Center. My observations of Judge DiClaudio were constant which provides me with a solid perspective to attest to his superior legal capabilities—that have since morphed into the exact same superior judicial capabilities.

In 2001 I paused my law practice for several years in order to broaden my horizons and diversify my life interests and pursuits.

In 2011 when I resumed my criminal law practice I recall the first person I saw upon entering the Criminal Justice Center was Judge DiClaudio (then attorney DiClaudio). I witnessed attorney DiClaudio's patience with his clients. I remember attorney DiClaudio was always unselfishly available to assist clients and their families before and after trials and hearings. I witnessed attorney DiClaudio's never tiring behavior helping clients in attempts to achieve justice on their behalf. Attorney DiClaudio's knowledge of the law was genius, but even more impressive was his ability to impart complex legal theories and concepts to lay jurors in order to obtain not guilty verdicts for his clients; which was very often the case.

Currently as a jurist, I have known Judge DiClaudio to be a fair, honest and motivating judge who always exhibits high level judicial prowess from the bench. I expect that it will be echoed that Judge DiClaudio is evenhanded regarding both prosecutors and defense attorneys. All of this provides for certainty, reliability and predictability essential for the efficient administration of justice in a big city criminal justice court system.

Also important is the personal care Judge DiClaudio exhibits for both defendants and victims alike. Defendants who need help know that Judge DiClaudio is always available to provide services and resources for self-betterment and improvement toward rehabilitation. Victims are

vindicated as Judge DiClaudio upholds the rule of law regarding punishments for crime.

It is because of Judge DiClaudio's commitment to constitutional justice, and his very high legal and judicial IQ, that I humbly, but very confidently, submit this letter of reference on behalf of the Honorable Scott DiClaudio.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Walter Crispus Chisholm



R. Emmett Madden, Esquire
madden@thePhillyLawyers.com

Margeaux Cigainero, Esquire
margeaux@thePhillyLawyers.com

March 19, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Honorable Scott DiClaudio
MC-51-CR-0030254-2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter is written on behalf of the Honorable Scott DiClaudio of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

I have been practicing law in Philadelphia for 9 years. My primary area of practice has always been criminal defense. I have practiced law in Philadelphia county and the surrounding counties as well as federal court in Pennsylvania. I have been in front of many different judges throughout my career, including Judge DiClaudio.

I have observed Judge DiClaudio for many years in a "smart room" where pleas are taken, discovery and offers are passed, and motions are heard. In this room I was able to observe Judge DiClaudio take time with each and every defendant and attorney even when his list of cases was in excess of one hundred, which was often.

Because Judge DiClaudio has worked in the District Attorney's office as well as working as a defense attorney, he is uniquely situated to listen to each side in a case and craft a fair sentence. He always arrives promptly at 9:00 a.m. and gets right to work.

He takes the time to address defendants, witnesses, complaining witnesses and any other people in his room. He takes the time to explain why he is crafting a sentence, why he has scheduled a status hearing in order to check in with a defendant's treatment program and job training. Each person in that courtroom is shown dignity and respect by Judge DiClaudio and each person comes away understanding exactly why Judge DiClaudio came to his decision with respect to their case.

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When a defendant is given a sentence, Judge DiClaudio explains why he gave that sentence and what will happen if there is a violation of probation or parole. It happens rarely, but when a defendant has violated Judge DiClaudio's probation or parole, Judge DiClaudio has already explained to the defendant what he will do and why. This allows everyone in the courtroom to have confidence in the Court system, as Judge DiClaudio does what he says and explains why he does it. Defendants may not like the punishment, but they understand why Judge DiClaudio has given them this punishment and respect him for his transparency.

I was an attorney gaining experience when I began to appear in front of Judge DiClaudio five years ago. He was kind, even when I stumbled, due to my lack of familiarity with custom and procedure. I have observed Judge DiClaudio explaining to the new and younger defense attorneys and Assistant District Attorneys in his room procedure and case law that they should be familiar with. But, Judge DiClaudio is always cognizant to give these explanations at sidebar or to address the young attorneys after the room is clear for the day so he doesn't single out their inexperience. He treats everyone in his room with dignity and respect. He takes the time to give everyone in his courtroom the opportunity to thrive.

In addition, Judge DiClaudio actively volunteers at MANNA- Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance. He welcomes defendants to join him monthly where they help package healthy and nutritious food for those in need. He tries to show defendants that not only can they change their lives, but they can be instrumental and beneficial in others' lives.

I understand the seriousness of the allegations against Judge DiClaudio. That being said, I believe that his beneficial contributions should be given careful consideration. I do not believe a letter can explain the positivity and hope that is a constant in his courtroom. In my humble opinion, I believe Judge DiClaudio should remain a member of the Court of Common Pleas and be allowed to continue to dispense justice in his unique and considered manner.

Your Honors' consideration in this regard is appreciated.

Thank you,

MARGEUX CIGAINERO

McMONAGLE PERRI
McHUGH MISCHAK DAVIS

TRIAL LAWYERS

A Professional Corporation

MPMPC.COM

Brian J. McMonagle*
Fortunato N. Perri, Jr.
Walter J. McHugh*
David B. Mischak

William M. Davis
Charles M. Gibbs*
Raymond C. Driscoll
Steven B. Patton

March 16, 2021

**Re: Honorable Scott DiClaudio
Character Reference**

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of good character on behalf of Judge Scott DiClaudio. I have known Judge DiClaudio as an adversary, friend, and judge for almost twenty years. I hold him in high regard both professionally and personally and submit this reference enthusiastically and without reservation.

I first met Judge DiClaudio when I was a newly employed assistant district attorney in Philadelphia in 2001. He managed an incredibly busy criminal defense practice and was a frequent adversary in court. He consistently provided his clients with diligently prepared defenses and unparalleled advocacy. He was always a worthy opponent. He also litigated cases fairly and honestly and was an adversary that my colleagues and I trusted and respected.

I decided to enter private practice as a criminal defense attorney in 2005 and sought advice from Judge DiClaudio. He generously gave me his time and provided thoughtful guidance to me. He taught me many things that helped shape my development as a trial attorney and I am grateful to him for that. He helped teach me the business of practicing law. He stressed the importance of maintaining client contact, visiting incarcerated clients, documenting your actions in a case, and appropriately managing clients' funds.

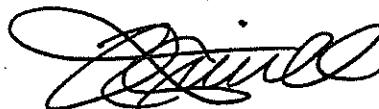
I returned to the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office in early 2017 and served as assistant chief of the Trial Division and as chief of the Felony Waiver Unit. I had the pleasure of litigating cases before Judge DiClaudio and of watching assistant district attorneys who I was supervising practice before him. I frequently assigned attorneys who were new to the felony units to try cases before Judge DiClaudio. His patience, knowledge, and willingness to hold attorneys accountable made him the ideal venue for assistant district attorneys who wanted to improve their trial skills in a courteous and professional environment. I am proud to say that he

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is just as effective, prepared, and trustworthy as a judge as he was as an attorney when I met him almost twenty years ago.

I hope you will consider the information contained within this letter when deciding the matter at issue. I welcome the opportunity to discuss Judge DiClaudio's character with you in greater detail. Kindly contact me at the below number or at rdriscoll@mpmpc.com should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Driscoll', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Raymond C. Driscoll



JEREMY-EVAN ALVA
BRAD V. SHUTTLEWORTH *

SENIOR COUNSEL:
DANIEL-PAUL ALVA

OF COUNSEL:
EDWARD J. FOSTER
DAVID A. MOSCOW

* ALSO MEMBER NJ BAR

To Whom It May Concern:

March 26, 2021

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CHESTER COUNTY OFFICE
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WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19382
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

I have known Judge DiClaudio for almost 20 years. I became a Philadelphia Public Defender when His Honor was still in private practice. From the beginning, Judge DiClaudio has always been a forthright and honest person with me. Yes, he is nowhere close to perfect, he has imperfections, but being a bad Judge is **NOT** one of them.

When His Honor was elected, the scuttle butt in the courthouse, was that he would not work hard and be too lenient for the Defense side. Those people who thought and spoke that way, were wrong from the start. Judge DiClaudio has worked diligently from the bench, disposing of cases in great numbers. However, disposing of cases is not the important thing. The manner in which he disposes cases is.

Judge DiClaudio takes time to understand most Defendants, most people who come into his room. He has a personality which shows both the Defense and Commonwealth his empathy towards each side. Do not let his empathy think it turns into sympathy, his empathy turns into justice for each Defendant and for the community at large.

Each side, the Commonwealth and Defense, respect Judge DiClaudio. I know what the administration of the Philadelphia District Attorney's office thinks of His Honor, I have read the articles. However, being in the trenches, I know what the rank and file of the Assistant District Attorneys think of Judge DiClaudio. The feelings are polar opposites. Everyone in the courthouse knows that Judge DiClaudio works hard, is fair to both sides and understands the criminal justice system.

The best example I can give, is the list His Honor keeps of all the gun cases he has disposed of. He listens to the Defendant and the Commonwealth before handing down his sentence. It does not matter if it is a negotiated sentence or an open plea, each case gets the attention it needs. After the sentence is given, His Honor gives the same speech to each Defendant, where he shows the running list that he keeps of Defendant's who have been sentenced before him on firearm charges. Each person is told that if he/she picks up another gun case and is convicted that they will be sentenced to a certain amount of jail time. More importantly, he explains to each person why and how they can better themselves in a personal

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PAGE 2
3/26/21

way. At no point does it come across as I am better than you nor speaking down to the Defendant. I believe Judge DiClaudio has sentenced over 1,000 Defendants for gun cases and less than 10 have been convicted of another gun case. That statistic along shows the type of Judge, Judge DiClaudio is.

Judge DiClaudio understands what being a Judge is. Sure, he has made mistakes, nobody is perfect. However, when it comes to presiding over a case in a courtroom Judge DiClaudio is close to perfect. His knowledge, empathy and ability to communicate with everyone is second to none.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy-Evan Alva', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

JEREMY-EVAN ALVA, ESQ.

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March 17, 2021

RE: The Honorable Scott DiClaudio

To Whom It May Concern:

As a member in good standing of the Pennsylvania Bar for 36+ years with a practice primarily in Philadelphia and its surrounding collar counties, I am writing this letter in support of the Honorable Scott DiClaudio. It is my understanding that some insight and perspective of Judge DiClaudio will be of assistance in assessing his situation and deciding a course of action.

With a solo practice and its focus on Civil and Criminal Litigation, I have had many occasions and opportunities to interact with Judge DiClaudio both while he was in private practice and while on the bench. At all times over the 2 1/2 decades that I have known him and interacted with him, I have found him to be friendly, honest, knowledgeable about the law and conducting himself in a lawful, professional and ethical fashion at all times.

While interacting with him, I have had an opportunity to observe him representing his clients while in private practice and adhering to the highest standards expected of attorneys practicing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He was always prepared when appearing in Court and conducted himself with the highest degree of integrity. This same work ethic and respect for the law was brought with him once he took the bench.

Having appeared many times before Judge DiClaudio, I found him applying the law and going to great lengths to balance the needs of the Commonwealth with those of the Defendants before him. His conduct and professionalism in the courtroom, I believe, has been partly shaped by the experiences he gained while in private practice and a desire to instill a sense of respect, compassion and responsibility for all in the courtroom.

I've never seen nor have I known of any instances where he intentionally engaged in any disrespectful behavior or conduct or compromised the duties and responsibilities he undertook when he took the oath to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and in particular

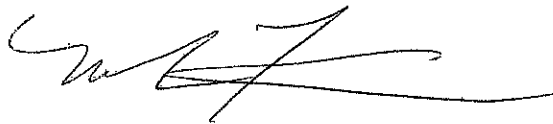
R-10

the oath to serve as a Judge in the Court of Common Pleas and adhere to the Rules of Professional and Judicial Conduct.

I feel fortunate to know him, have had an opportunity to interact with him while in private practice and to appear before him while he has been on the bench. I also know of scores of colleagues in the legal community who have a similar high regard and opinion for Judge DiClaudio.

Should you need additional information or desire to speak to me directly, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Feinman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MARK FEINMAN

MF/gmr

RICHARD J. GIULIANI

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March 22, 2021

Court of Judicial Discipline of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue
Suite 5500
P.O. Box 62595
Harrisburg, PA 17106-2595

**RE: Judge Scott DiClaudio
No. 3 JD19**

Dear Members of the Court,

I write to you on behalf of Judge Scott DiClaudio of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County. I am aware that this Honorable Court has ruled that Judge DiClaudio has brought the judicial office into disrepute and has scheduled a sanctions hearing for his conduct. I respectfully request that you accept this letter when determining the sanction to impose on Judge DiClaudio.

I have known Judge DiClaudio since he worked as an Assistant District Attorney a number of years ago, and then during his subsequent career as a defense attorney. I have also appeared before him in his courtroom many times and I am extremely familiar with his conduct while presiding over criminal cases here in Philadelphia.

Judge DiClaudio is uniquely qualified to preside over criminal trials in Philadelphia due to his experience and his temperament. Upon his election to the bench, he was placed into a "Smart Room" in Philadelphia's criminal division. All felony prosecutions in Philadelphia, other than homicide, are sent after a Preliminary Hearing to a Smart Room. These rooms are designed to encourage guilty pleas in order to lessen the burden of cases sent out to trial which cannot be resolved by plea. The judges in these rooms often have daily lists in excess of one hundred cases. While many cases resolve by negotiated plea, others are pled open, leaving the judges in these rooms to determine the appropriate sentences. Discovery disputes, motions to quash and other pre-trial motions are also heard in these rooms. Pre-pandemic, these rooms were consistently packed with defendants, their family members and other members of the public who witnessed what occurs in these rooms.

Presiding in a Smart Room is an almost impossible task for a judge. In Philadelphia there is simply insufficient capacity for our judges to preside over, and take a substantial amount of time, for each case. The judges do their best, but when making decisions which can affect

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peoples' lives and liberty, the pressure to make the correct decision, many times a day, is enormous.

Despite this, Judge DiClaudio has done an outstanding job. He shows up every day to work, beginning promptly at 9:00 a.m. He engages not only the attorneys who appear before him, but the defendants, witnesses, victims and audience, with an even temper. Most often he is explaining to a defendant who appears before him and is pleading guilty, that the defendant will be given a break at sentencing, but that if he violates the judge's parole or probation, Judge DiClaudio promises the sanction he will impose in the future. I have witnessed those promises kept. While Judge DiClaudio is well known in the Philadelphia defense bar and counts many of us as friends and colleagues, there is absolutely no favoritism granted to any of us. I have watched as Judge DiClaudio listens to both the prosecution and defense argue for drastically different sentences or dispositions, and in making his decisions he is able to promptly dispense justice despite the constraints of time and the pressures of scores of other cases waiting to be heard. Every time I have witnessed him rule, even when his decision is adverse to my client, I find it impossible to find fault with his decision. Again, I believe his experience both as a prosecutor and defense counsel to be invaluable in his ability to preside as a judge.

You should also be aware, that since many of the cases he has presided over have resolved by plea, he now supervises hundreds, if not thousands, of individuals who are on his county probation or parole. After years of accepting pleas, it is inevitable that some of his probationers and parolees will violate the terms of their supervision. From a caseload standpoint, these violations of probation and parole hearings only add to the already staggering number of daily cases for the new prosecutions flowing through our system. When his probationers appear before him, Judge DiClaudio reminds each of them how he first gave them a break, and then promised them a much harsher sentence upon violation, which he then imposes. He does not do so gleefully, but he will have a conversation with each of these defendants and have them admit that they knew what he would do. No defendant relishes being given a harsh sentence for violating their supervision, but to a man and woman, when they speak to Judge DiClaudio, they respect him, perhaps grudgingly, but with full understanding of why he acted. That understanding of the necessity of appropriate punishment is also understood by the many members of the public sitting in his courtroom, watching, and nodding in approval as he explains to a defendant how and why he reached his decision. In sum, more than most judges, Judge DiClaudio makes the public know why and how he acts, which is crucially important in my view, in having public confidence in the operation of our courts.

Lastly, I would ask that you consider that due to his experience, Judge DiClaudio has the unique ability to assess those defendants who appear before him. Often times, the defendants who appear before him will be first time offenders, or others who he quickly assesses as being "at risk" due to their personal circumstances. He knows which defendants need intense supervision and services instead of straight incarceration. I have witnessed him take great joy when those

whom he supervises successfully complete their sentences. He has come down off the bench to shake the hand of these defendants and to congratulate them publicly as the members of the audience watch. His actions are clearly intentional and intended to gain the support and understanding of those who appear before him and the public. He will treat those in his courtroom fairly, and if a defendant wants help for addiction, or job training, or any other services that will prevent them from being a statistic, he will gladly do so.

Please understand that I recognize the seriousness of the charges brought against Judge DiClaudio and appreciate the necessity to preserve the public's respect for the integrity of our courts. That being said, I ask you to give great weight to Judge DiClaudio's positive contributions. This is a judge who has greatly enhanced the cause of justice and the court's reputation here in Philadelphia. It is my humble opinion that he should remain a member of the Court of Common Pleas where he can continue to dispense justice as he has done so since his election.

Your Honors' courtesy and consideration in this regard are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully yours,


RICHARD J. GIULIANI

RJG/km

THE LAW OFFICE OF
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DAVID S. GLANZBERG, ESQUIRE*
ROBERT M. TOBIA, SR, ESQUIRE

* ALSO MEMBER NJ BAR

March 10, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Judge Scott DiClaudio. I have known Judge DiClaudio for over 30 years. We started our careers in the Municipal Court Unit of the District Attorney's office. We tried cases together as assistant District Attorney's. I left the office in 1992. Scott left the office shortly after then. We once again tried cases together, this time as defense attorney's, representing Defendant's in criminal trials. We represented co-defendant's in many bench trials as well as jury trials in state court and Federal courts. Scott is always prepared, knowledgeable as to the law, and completely familiar with the facts of each case. We have developed a close friendship over the last 30 years. For that reason I do not appear before Judge DiClaudio.

However, I have been practicing law for over 33 years. Prior to the pandemic, I was in the Criminal Justice Center practically every day. I have spoken to numerous attorneys, court staff and members of the Judiciary concerning Judge DiClaudio. His reputation amongst the criminal bar is one of excellence. He is fair minded and extremely hard working. The thing that strikes me about his work ethic is that he takes on a tremendous amount of work. His lists are longer than most of his colleagues. He works inside and outside the courtroom to make sure his room runs smoothly and efficiently while at the same time takes the necessary time to evaluate and handle each matter with thoughtfulness and fairness. He is respectful to all parties that appear before him. Scott has garnered nothing but respect from his peers. He has excelled in his role as Judge since being elected to the bench. Judge DiClaudio possesses the ultimate positive attitude while taking on all his daily tasks. He is exceptionally responsive to his duties and he is able to handle even complex cases with ease.

On a personal note I can tell you that Scott is a wonderful and loyal friend. He is a person who I am proud to call "my brother from another mother" and my best friend. If you have any questions or concerns that I can address, I am happy to answer your questions.

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Very truly yours,
GLANZBERG TOBIA LAW, P.C.

BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. S. Glanzberg', written over a horizontal line.

DAVID S. GLANZBERG, ESQUIRE

DSG/js



GOLDSTEIN
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LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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March 24, 2021

Judicial Conduct Board
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500
PO Box 62525
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Hon. Scott DiClaudio

I write this letter of support on behalf of the Honorable Scott DiClaudio. I am a criminal defense attorney in Philadelphia. I did not know Judge DiClaudio well when he was a criminal defense attorney, but I have appeared in front of him many times since he was elected to the bench. I have always found him to be extremely fair and reasonable for both the Commonwealth and the defense. In my experience, he treats all parties who appear before him with respect, follows the law, and treats the defendants and counsel fairly. He is always prompt and efficient in a very busy courtroom, and he is appreciative of counsel's time and obligations. He treats defendants as people and takes time to get to know them, learn their stories, and understand their frustrations. He always considers mitigation fairly and gives defendants an opportunity to show him they have reformed. He gives both sides a fair opportunity to be heard.

I have also been personally impressed by his commitment to community service. I know that he has helped to organize participation in a local food bank on an ongoing basis and has often asked defendants on his probation to volunteer with that organization. The defendants seem to enjoy the opportunity, and the judge also frequently participates himself. I think his commitment to this organization and his working alongside his probationers really shows his commitment to helping people improve their lives.

I am familiar with the details of the disciplinary action. Although some discipline may be called for given the board's findings, I certainly do not think removal from the bench would be

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appropriate. Judge DiClaudio is a fair jurist to both sides, and his removal would be a loss for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. It would be a shame for both the Commonwealth and defense bar if he were removed. Judge DiClaudio has my full support due to the excellent job that he does as a judge.

Sincerely,

/s Zak Goldstein

Zak T. Goldstein, Esq.



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1515 Market St, Suite 1200
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L.Goodman@GoodmanLawGroup.net

March 19, 2021

Judicial Conduct Board
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500
P.O. Box 62525
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0901

Re: The Honorable Scott DiClaudio, Character Letter

To Whom it May Concern,

I write this letter in support of Judge Scott DiClaudio whom I have known professionally for 23 years. I worked as an Assistant District Attorney for 15 years, from July 1996 until August 1998 in Allegheny County and August 1998 until February 2012 in Philadelphia County. I have maintained a legal practice since 2013, focusing on mental health law and both adult and juvenile criminal defense based in Philadelphia County. I have appeared in courts in multiple counties all over the Commonwealth, appearing before numerous judges.

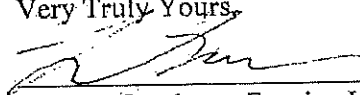
I have known Judge Scott DiClaudio from my time as a prosecutor, to my transition to a defense attorney. I have taken cases to trial against him when he was an attorney, and have appeared in front of him on numerous occasions after he took the Bench, handing motions, negotiated pleas and trials. Having seen him transition from attorney to judge, I have personally observed his character and temperament as a Judge from his first day on the bench until today. I can state with no hesitation, having seen judges on both sides of this great Commonwealth, that there is no judge more caring, dedicated and hardworking than Judge Scott DiClaudio. Unlike many who take the robe, Judge DiClaudio has not forgotten what it is like to practice law. Due to the heavy Philadelphia case load, attorneys are often scheduled in multiple rooms on a single day. I have seen Judge DiClaudio personally call other judges to notify them that attorneys were handling matters in front of him, with time estimates to the minute of how long it would take before they could go to the next court room. This to ensure that the business of the court, even if it was not in his room, would be done in a timely manner. I have further seen him take 55 minutes to talk to a defendant who showed little to no respect to his Court to determine the appropriate sentence. The level of disrespect demonstrated that day was such that attorneys observing were of the consensus that the sentence given showed a level of restraint that not one of them possessed. When Judge DiClaudio then placed on the record, why he did what he did, both prosecutor and defense on both sides of the bar were in agreement with the outcome.

Further, I have seen Judge DiClaudio work side by side with citizens on his probation at their community service. I have never seen any other judge work in a soup kitchen next to citizens that he sentenced to do the same. In a legal system sometimes perceived as unfair and unjust by many African American and minority citizens, Judge DiClaudio is the rare example of a judge, who every day that he is on the bench strives to give everyone the feeling of respect and dignity. My practice consists of primarily

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African American citizens like myself, many of whom are indigent and thus court appointments. Some of them, due to life choices or life circumstances, have had the misfortune of appearing in front of numerous judges in various counties. Consistently, even after being sentenced to state prison by Judge DiClaudio their reaction is, he was fair. For those clients who received lesser sentences there is an overwhelming desire to not disappoint him, personally. I suspect it is not because of the power and fear that a judge's robe holds and can produce, but because of the evidence seen and actions shown by the man, that the robe around Judge Scott DiClaudio covers a human who actually cares.

Very Truly Yours,



Leon D. Goodman, Esquire, LL.M.

ID# 77753

The Law Offices of Matthew S. Hagarty

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Re: The Honorable Scott DiClaudio, Character Letter

February 26, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

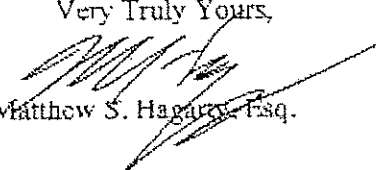
I write this letter in support of Judge Scott DiClaudio, whom I have known professionally for about 13 years. I worked as an assistant Public Defender in Philadelphia from 2008 through 2013. Since 2015, I have maintained my own law practice focusing on criminal defense in Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. I have appeared in front of Judge DiClaudio over 100 times for Pre Trial Conferences, Guilty Plea/Sentencing Hearings, Pre Trial Motions, and Violation of Probation Hearings.

I have always known Judge DiClaudio to be extremely fair-minded. He is very smart and hard-working, and always shows up on time at 9:00 on the dot to handle sometimes over 100 cases each day on his docket. His extensive criminal practice on both sides of the bench inform his excellent jurisprudence. He is respectful and courteous to all counsel who appear before him and has one of the best senses of humor in the courthouse (he enjoys poking fun of lawyers on both sides as well as himself).

Perhaps most importantly, he treats every party and witness with the utmost respect. Many of my clients are from low-income backgrounds with difficult family circumstances, and several have told me how Judge DiClaudio treats them with more respect and talks to them like people better than any judge ever has. In fact, several of my clients have told me that they always think twice before making a decision that would violate the terms of their probation with Judge DiClaudio-because they do not want to disappoint him.

I thank you for your consideration of this letter. If you have any questions please contact me anytime.

Very Truly Yours,


Matthew S. Hagarty, Esq.

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To The Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania,

This letter is in support of the Honorable Scott DiClaudio. I have been a criminal defense attorney with the Philadelphia Defender Association since August of 2013. For almost two straight years from 2017 to 2019 I was assigned to his courtroom. There is no single Judge that has earned my respect more than Scott DiClaudio. He has always been fair, honest, civil, accurate, and extremely hardworking.

First, it is important to state that at the peak of our working relationship, Judge DiClaudio was by far the busiest Judge in the Criminal Justice Center. I estimate he handled at least twice the workload of any other Judge in the building. In all that time he never once complained about the workload. In fact, the opposite is true. He was eager to work and would often agree to come in on planned days off to address custody matters when alerted him that I believed that my client could be released. This was proof to me that Judge DiClaudio truly cares about the lives of other people, more than himself.

When I was assigned to his room, the court list often reached the daily maximum of 150 cases. It was rare for the list to be under 100 and for most of my time it was at least 120 per day. This included motions, pretrial conferences, violation of probation hearings, sentencing, and sometimes trials. It is important to understand the volume because it can make the work day highly chaotic. Defendants could be waiting hours to speak to their attorney and sometimes fatigue and agitation boiled over. Most defendants were patient and well-mannered, but there were some who would show up late and were high/drunk, or just plain unruly and disruptive. In all my time, Judge DiClaudio never once belittled a defendant or an employee of his staff. He exercised good patience and judgement throughout. I have never seen him once act unkindly, disrespectful, or superior to anyone. He has a way of deescalating otherwise volatile situations and treats everyone with dignity, despite sometimes being disrespected by defendants' words or actions. I never once saw him use his judicial power to be vindictive. I have watched people tell him "go fuck yourself" and "suck a dick" after receiving a sentence which I perceived to be a fair. In each of those circumstances, Judge DiClaudio never once lengthened their sentence out of spite.

A perfect example is when one of my clients had absconded from supervision and was re-arrested for a felony crime. This individual had ongoing addiction and mental health issues. He was also extremely crafty and would often say anything to escape liability or put on a performance to appear sympathetic. This behavior is common for people who are struggling with addiction. At his violation hearing, where his family had appeared, he acted overly apologetic and begged to be released. Judge DiClaudio did not release him that day. If he had, chances are very high that he would have reoffended or died within the month. Judge DiClaudio also did not sentence him to the violation guideline range of three to six years in prison. Instead, he continued the violation hearing and ordered a mental health evaluation for recommendations regarding a re-entry plan. Almost immediately, the client became very hostile, vulgar, and made personal attacks against Judge DiClaudio. Judge DiClaudio allowed him to continue, with the protection of guards nearby, and then explained to him as calmly and compassionately as possible why he felt it was in this individuals' long-term interest. Judge DiClaudio was not the least bit vindictive. He continued to treat this individual with respect despite being verbally

assaulted. The decision he made that day was indicative of his commitment to helping people. Judge DiClaudio genuinely cares about the people that are in his life. That is something that is atypical of someone in his position. I have witnessed every man and woman with equality, integrity, and dignity. I have never once seen Judge DiClaudio physically, emotionally, or verbally mistreat anyone.

There were countless occurrences like the one above. Judge DiClaudio always acted within the guidance of the law and common sense, and he never let spite get in the way of justice. I can't say that about many other Judges. In fact, by comparison, the Judge that I practiced in front of prior to Judge DiClaudio would regularly belittle my clients for even the most minor infractions, to the point where I once watched this other Judge make the mother of my client cry by blaming her for being a poor parent. I have never seen more unacceptable behavior. Now take Scott DiClaudio as a sharp contrast, a Judge who has performed community service with their own probationers. It is abundantly clear that he cares about the citizens in his community. I also volunteered one time and I watched him roll up his sleeves and help make fish sandwiches. This was not just a publicity stunt. It was long, tedious, and dirty work. He didn't just sit back and chit chat. He was engaged with the people who participated and worked the entire time. He was genuine, affable, and befriended the very people that were under his supervision.

These types of occurrences are the reason why I know that Judge DiClaudio is one of the finest Judges in the entire city of Philadelphia. Judge DiClaudio has always made sound decisions to seek justice for the citizens of Philadelphia. These are the signs of not just a good Judge, but a good human. This is a person who cares about people, cares more for others than he does about himself. This is the type of person the city needs to Judge the behavior of its citizens. That is the most important contribution Judge DiClaudio has given the residents of Philadelphia. He is here for them when almost everyone else has turned their backs. Therefore, today and every day, I will always support Judge DiClaudio in any endeavor he faces.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward Y. Jilozian". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Edward Y. Jilozian, Esquire
Attorney ID 316153
Phone 267-765-6358



Brian F. Humble, Esquire
1313 Race Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107



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Date: 3/24/21

To: The Pennsylvania Court of Judicial Discipline

RE: The Honorable Judge Scott DiClaudio

This is a judicial character letter on the behalf of the Honorable Judge Scott DiClaudio in consideration of the upcoming disciplinary proceedings. It is my hope that you give the foregoing its due consideration.

I have known Judge DiClaudio since I began practicing criminal law some 20+ years ago. Throughout that time, my relationship with his honor has progressed from colleague in the practice of criminal defense to representation of clients in the Court of Common Pleas in courtrooms he has presided over.

As an attorney, Judge DiClaudio was one of the few attorneys I observed and consulted with when I was learning the nuts-and-bolts of criminal defense in Philadelphia. Most significantly, it was my early observation that Judge DiClaudio was always gracious and civil with me as a young lawyer, and he often went out of his way to offer me advice. During that time, I can say with all sincerity, that Judge DiClaudio played a significant role in my early development into a zealous and ethical criminal defense attorney, which ultimately contributed to my current success as a private practitioner. This role and impact he had on me, is also true for countless other attorneys whom he engaged both professionally and socially.

As a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Judge DiClaudio has surpassed any reasonable person's definition of competence. From the onset of his election to the bench, I had no doubt that he would make an excellent Judge in the criminal division. His honor's high level of competence and knowledge as a criminal defense lawyer is enough evidence to support this undeniable fact. However, since he has presided over the years, it is further obvious to anyone who practices criminal defense in Philadelphia that he is among the best Judges on the bench and his loss would be a devastating to justice and fair-minded jurisprudence.

Judge DiClaudio is the most fair-minded and impartial Judge that sits in the criminal division of the Court of Common Pleas. His learned acumen in criminal law, aptitude for sound reasoning, as well as profound instinct and common sense is a unique combination of quality not often found in many of his peers. Additionally, his judicial temperament is one of respect and concern for all people in his court room. I would defy any practitioner, whether defense or prosecution, who has practiced in front of him to suggest anything less than this regarding his level competence, temperament, and fairness as a Judge.

Beyond this, Judge DiClaudio understands and cares about people. He cares about the people who must accept the consequence of their actions through punitive measures imposed under our criminal laws and treats them with respect. His Honor's work in criminal law does not cease after he retires from the bench for the day. Throughout his judgeship, his honor has dedicated 1000's of hours personally participating in community service programs designed to assist his probationers in developing positive citizenry skills and traits to reduce

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recidivism. He wants people to succeed and is willing to sacrifice what little personal time he has off the bench to ensure this.

Equally, his Honor cares about all Philadelphians and victims of crime. When incarceration and significant punishment is warranted, Judge DiClaudio does not hesitate to impose the proper and just punishment prescribed by our laws. Nevertheless, he never expresses any bias or personal malice to anyone when doing so. He applies the law impartially as it was intended, with fairness and well-reasoned conclusions behind his decisions that lead to better results for everyone.

In closure, I implore the disciplining court to consider sanctions that do not punish the bench, the bar, and the people of Philadelphia. To be clear, any punitive measures that would result in his removal, suspension, or loss to people of Philadelphia who elected him would, without any doubt, be a tragic loss to the overall interests and expectations we all have in justice and a better judiciary.

Respectfully,



Brian F. Humble, Esquire

March 22, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a court clerk at Juanita Kidd Stout Center for Criminal Justice. I clerked for the Honorable Scott Claudio for about two years. It is my opinion that Judge DiClaudio is one of the best judges I've ever worked under. It was my office's policy, for Courtroom 905, to have a one-month rotation with two clerks assigned to the room. The experience of the room was so refreshing I voluntarily requested to be assigned as a steady clerk. Our court calendar would range from eighty to about one hundred-fifty cases daily with possibilities of add-ons throughout the course of the day. I was so comfortable that I opted not to have a partner for the rest of my rotation as his court clerk. Judge DiClaudio made me feel so comfortable, in my opinion he treated us, his staff, as equal counterparts. He made sure that I was not overwhelmed, he took the necessary breaks when needed, even when I didn't ask for a break, he would make an announcement "Okay, we need about a two-minute break to let my clerk catch up." Judge DiClaudio I consider is a "Hands-on" judge. He treated everyone fairly: defendants, attorneys, and even family members, when in majority of the courtrooms that I have been in wouldn't give the family the time of day to even inquire about the defendants. Judge took the same amount of time, gave the speech, especially when it came to firearms to everyone. Judge DiClaudio took pride in his what he would call "Firearm/Gun Probation", in which he kept a list of every person who was under his sentence and was charged with firearms. Personally, I was proud that he took gun charges so seriously, with me being a citizen of Philadelphia, residing in one of the dominant neighborhoods that gun possession is at an all-time high, and having minor children that at any point be caught in crossfire. He would write first and last name, case number and the date the defendant was sentenced. He gave everyone the same speech; a promise is what I liked to call it. He also made it clear what he would do if a probationer would get charged a second time while on his probation so there will be no discrepancies. As his court clerk for almost two years I can genuinely say that out of maybe over 1000 people on his gun probation only 3 people came back with a second gun charge. Judge DiClaudio also made promises to terminate probation if probation was followed with no infraction's probation would be terminated up to a year early, which gave people more of an incentive to complete probation with no problems. I suggested that he started putting the successful terminations on the wall, which would later be name "905 Star Probationers." As stated previously, Judge DiClaudio is a "hands-on" Judge, as a part of his sentence he would order defendants to participate in community service. This order was unique because if defendants could not find community service on their own, Judge DiClaudio would order defendants to go to MANNA, which is a nonprofit organization that prepares meals for people with serious illnesses. The surprise to all defendant is that Judge DiClaudio would also be there, working side by side talking to defendants, giving advice and to see what's really going on with them, to find the rooted problem. I can attest to this because I myself have often volunteered and was present to witness the conversations that took place. The Program was such a success that defendants even after completing community service would voluntarily go back to perform more, even defendant's family members were involved. Judge DiClaudio was also on point about being pro-active by visiting elementary and high schools giving presentations about statistics on firearms, people who are incarcerated, and recidivism risk. To sum up everything stated so far, I believe Judge Scott DiClaudio is exemplary in what he does. He takes pride, gets involved and from my perspective does his due diligence to make the city of Philadelphia a better place.

Sincerely,

Shannon Jones, Court Clerk

(267) 444-0230

R-17

Lebron, Annette

From: scott diclaudio <sdiclaudio13@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 1:43 PM
To: Lebron, Annette
Subject: Letter

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open any attachments unless you recognize the sender and confirmed the content is safe.

My name is Valerie Jones, and I am submitting this letter on behalf of the Honorable Scott DiClaudio. When His Honor was elected to the bench, I was one of the first Assistant Defenders to appear before his Honor. I was tasked with that responsibility because the office needed an experienced attorney to help train newly elected judges. Often times, helping newly elected judges adjust to the system is a very careful balancing act because most times the Assistant District Attorney and Assistant Defender have more experience than the judge and have to be careful not to overstep our bounds. I have been an Assistant Defender for over twenty-eight years with the Defender Association of Philadelphia. During that time, I have appeared before many judges in the criminal justice system. In my role as an Assistant Defender, I have always fought for fairness not necessarily acquittals. I have always advised clients to expect the same fairness when they appear in court. During my time as a Public Defender, I have appeared before many judges that were fair in their handling of matters before them. Judge Scott DiClaudio is one of those judges. He has always worked to be fair in his dealings with all parties involved in the process. He has exhibited fairness and concern for his staff, for the court staff, the sheriff, the attorneys, victims, and yes, even the individuals, charged with crimes, that appear before him. His is mindful about starting court on time, ensuring that staff gets time for lunch, and that all parties have their day in court. It was refreshing to work in a courtroom that operated consistently. When hearing a matter brought before him, judge DiClaudio approached each matter with an open mind, listening to all side of the matter before rendering a verdict and before imposing sentence. Although this letter is being written by an Assistant Defender, it is being written by an individual who believes in fairness. Judge Diclaudio exhibits that fairness. He expects individuals appearing before him to be accountable for their actions and to accept responsibility for those actions. As a result of his balanced approach to handling matters, individuals have become productive members of society. They appear for status hearings with GED/s, employment, and a sense of pride. Even in cases where violations of probation/parole have occurred, those individuals accept the consequences because they know they have been treated fairly. Judge DiClaudio takes the responsibilities entrusted to him by those who have elected him to the bench with great pride and humility. While our roles in an adversarial system sometimes causes us to disagree, we hold a mutual respect for the roles each plays in the process. It is refreshing and encouraging to know that fairness does exist in judges and in a system that often appears to the outsider as unjust and unfair. Judge DiClaudio continues to fight the good fight with enthusiasm and fairness. As an Assistant Defender and as a citizen I expect nothing less from our judges.

Sent from my iPhone

R-18

CHARLES H. JUNOD, JR.

210 Angela St.

Key West, FL 33040

215-801-6997

charjunod@msu.com

Re: The Honorable Scott DiClaudio- Character letter

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Judge Scott DiClaudio for approximately 30 years. I first met him when we were both working in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. I remained in the District Attorney's Office until November of 2019 when I retired as Supervisor of the Diversion Unit. During my professional career I have worked with Judge DiClaudio and have appeared before him. I knew him as a co-worker, as opposing counsel and as a Judge. In whatever capacity I have always found him to be fair and hard-working. I was particular impressed, though, with him in his judicial capacity.

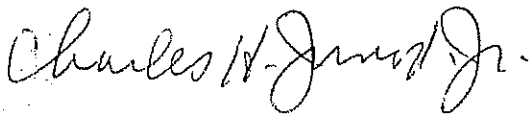
During the time that I appeared before him as a Judge, he was assigned to an extremely busy calendar courtroom. His ability to handle the enormous caseload with appropriate judicial demeanor while protecting the rights of those before him was absolutely impressive. It is not easy to handle so many cases without the proceedings appearing to defendants, witnesses, litigants and even spectators as less than a fair day in Court.

R-19

In Judge DiClaudio's Courtroom everyone was given the time, respect and fairness they deserved. It was obvious to me that Judge DiClaudio was always determined to do his best in his judicial capacity with each matter and person before him. I never saw complacency set in despite the long days and the long lists.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this letter. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Junod, Jr.
Diversion Unit Supervisor (Retired)
Philadelphia District Attorney's Office

123 S. Broad Street, Suite 2500
Philadelphia, PA 19109

March 25, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as character reference letter for the Honorable Scott DiClaudio.


I have known Judge DiClaudio for thirty years as a skilled Assistant District Attorney in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, as a highly effective criminal defense attorney and as an incredibly equitable, learned and caring judge in the Court of Common Pleas, Philadelphia County.

I have had the pleasure of practicing before Judge DiClaudio on countless occasions. No matter the decision or verdict that Judge DiClaudio renders, both my clients and myself have always believed that the decision was well-reasoned and just. Judge DiClaudio has treated everyone of my clients and those represented by other counsel with the utmost respect and care, regardless of the nature of the offenses committed. Judge DiClaudio expends incredible energy on every defendant that has appeared before him, offering his most sincere wisdom and wishes for a better future. Judge DiClaudio's decisions, whether it be on a pretrial motion, verdict or sentence are equitable, eloquently delivered and steeped in decades of experience as a prosecutor, criminal defense attorney and years on the bench.

In all of the years that Judge DiClaudio has presided over tens of thousands of cases, I have observed him to be (and heard the same from countless other experienced prosecutors and defense counsel) a caring, intelligent, equitable and down-to-earth judge.

In sum, although not infallible, Judge DiClaudio enjoys a very strong reputation in the legal community as a solid human being doing his best to show respect to all parties that appear before him and to deliver justice to both the victims of crime and the accused.

Sincerely,


Max G. Kramer

R-20



5931 Heggerman Street, Philadelphia, PA 19135

April 26, 2021

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD
601 Commonwealth Avenue
Suite # 3500
Harrisburg, PA 171720

Re: The Honorable Judge Scott DiClaudio

Dear Honorable Sir/Madam:

It is with great pleasure and honor that I respectfully submit this character reference for the Honorable Judge Scott DiClaudio, whom I have known as Judge and my direct boss for a period of 6 years.

I first met Judge DiClaudio on 2015 during my interview and have worked closely with him as his judicial secretary since January of 2016, to the present date. Prior to working with Judge DiClaudio, I had the distinct pleasure of working with other honorable judges here in Philadelphia, so I am quite familiar with the code of conduct required of a sitting judge. As such, I believe that my working experience with Judge DiClaudio, as well as with other Judges, puts me in a unique position to provide you with a pretty accurate assessment of his character.

As a person, I can state unequivocally that Judge DiClaudio is intelligent, compassionate, fair, respectful, diligent, hard-working, and highly committed, exhibiting all the traits of a righteous and upright man. He is a fine, well-balanced person with an abundance of energy and positive qualities. I have seen him work hard to maintain an upright standard with all of his personal matters. As Judge, he is the same. In fact, I firmly believe that the Honorable Scott DiClaudio embodies what our Chief Justice and Judicial Conference Members intended when they first enacted the code of ethics for all Judges to uphold.

Judge DiClaudio is a man of unwavering integrity, honor, and judgment who upholds, observes, and preserves the purity and sincerity of the judicial process; engages in extrajudicial activities which are consistent with his office and obligations; and also refrains from any political activities. I have personally witnessed Honorable Scott DiClaudio perform his duties as Judge and can attest that he has dispensed justice in a manner consistent with this mandate. He renders justice fairly and confidently in accordance with the law without partiality, prejudice, interference, favor, or outside pressure.

Honorable Judge Scott DiClaudio is an upright person on and off the bench. In the years that I have known him, Judge DiClaudio has behaved in a respectful manner, at all times behaving in a gentlemanly manner exhibiting high standards and ethics. He is a great boss. Judge DiClaudio is an honorable and honest man who does not exploit his office as a judge. He is very down to earth, and very approachable on and off the bench. On the bench, Judge DiClaudio is impartial and does not discriminate nor allows outside influences whatsoever (not family, friends, acquaintances, other colleagues, social, political, financial, or other relationships) to influence his judicial conduct or judgment. He respects every person that crosses the thresholds of his courtroom, whether they are defendants, litigants, jurors, witnesses,

R-21

Annette Lebron

5931 Heggeman Street, Philadelphia, PA 19135

lawyers, civil officers, citizens, etc. regardless of their race, color, creed, national origin, ethnicity, sex/gender, religion, cultural values, age, and so forth. I have personally seen Judge DiClaudio interact with persons from varying backgrounds on and off the bench. I can state for the record that he has treated them with equanimity and respect without prejudice or condescension.

Furthermore, as Judge, the Honorable Scott DiClaudio performs his duties as prescribed by law, adhering to his adjudicative responsibilities. He is professional and competent. Judge DiClaudio has a manner of speech and behavior that inspires confidence in the fairness and integrity of his proceedings. Judge DiClaudio is not a politically ambitious individual nor does he allow himself to be swayed or influenced by politics--whether internal or external.

In terms of his administrative responsibilities, Judge DiClaudio is hard-working and diligent to promptly discharge his administrative responsibilities efficiently and fairly while maintaining professional competence in his judicial administration and facilitates the performance of the administrative responsibilities of other court personnel. He is a professional in all areas of his office who conducts himself in an upright manner, always conscious of his responsibilities and duties as a judge.

Before closing, I would like to point out that the Honorable Judge Scott DiClaudio has a reputation for engaging in activities that are consistent with his obligations of judicial office. In fact, for several years, Judge DiClaudio has volunteered in soup kitchens throughout Philadelphia in an effort to lead by example. He believes that by serving side-by-side with those whom he mandated to perform community service, his example could serve as both an encouragement and inspiration. Judge DiClaudio does not treat them as beneath him but rather as equals who are serving the community hand-in-hand. We have received letters from parents of defendants and the defendants themselves, thanking the judge for his patience and help with their matters, even after they had to serve a sentence imposed by him.

In closing, I hope that you consider the facts substantiating my character reference for the Honorable Judge Scott DiClaudio and find as I have, that he is a competent, professional, and honorable man on and off the bench.

Thank you for your time and attention.

With Respect and Sincerity,

Annette Lebron
Judicial secretary

February 26, 2021

Office of Judicial Conduct Board
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Ave, Suite 3500
P.O. Box 62525
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0901

Re: Judge Scott DiClaudio

To Whom it May Concern:

I write to you as a former prosecutor and current member of the criminal defense bar in Philadelphia to voice my strong support for Judge DiClaudio, notwithstanding any of the issues that require a letter such as this to be written in the first place. Losing him as a jurist would be a devastating blow to crime victims, defendants, and all of the practitioners who appear before him.

I have known Judge DiClaudio since I started practicing law as a young Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia in 2003 when I faced him in court as an adversary. I sat next to him in court for various cases when I became a private defense attorney in 2011. While I have always looked up to him both as an adversary and a colleague, my respect for him has skyrocketed since the day he first took the bench.

Since I began practicing law in 2003, I have spent nearly every single day inside a courtroom in Philadelphia's Criminal Justice Center. I have appeared in front of every judge that has taken the bench in the City since that time. I have a deep understanding for the characteristics that combine to produce a "great" judge, and without a doubt Judge DiClaudio has them all.

Many judges are quickly characterized as "defense" judges or "Commonwealth" judges because they are, or seem to be, biased towards one side or another. Judge DiClaudio is neither. He does what is right and just no matter what the case involves or who is involved in it. When he makes a ruling nobody leaves the courtroom shaking their head, which is really saying something in Philadelphia. I have had my adverse share of rulings in his courtroom and in each one I couldn't fault him at all for ruling the way he did. On tough cases that I think I should

R-22

prevail on, I do. As with all judges, defense attorneys and prosecutors alike share their opinions regarding different judges. The prevailing opinion of the many attorneys I speak to is that when you are in front of Judge DiClaudio, you lose the cases you should lose and win the ones that should be won. Judge DiClaudio holds every attorney who appears for him accountable, including myself. There was one occasion where I was regrettably late for his courtroom. As a result, he "punished" me by ordering to attend community service at his MANNA program he was running. The event was attended by other attorneys like myself who were being reprimanded. However, there were dozens of other individuals there who were on Judge DiClaudio's probation. I was amazed at the ease in which he interacted with those individuals and in the way they reacted to him. He took the time to have meaningful conversations with everyone working in the kitchen that night. Many of those young people told me they were amazed that a Judge would care so much about what was going on in their lives, and I could see their perceptions of the criminal justice system completely evolve before my eyes. I was so impressed with what Judge DiClaudio was doing with the Young people at MANNA that I found myself returning on my own because the experience was so rewarding.

Similarly, Judge DiClaudio takes the time to speak to everyone in his courtroom- defendants and witnesses alike, even if there is a list approaching 100 on a given day. I have seen him give breaks to defendants where warranted and punish them when he must. When he places a defendant on probation, especially for a gun, I have witnessed him give a long speeches to defendants outlining how they can expect a state sentence if they appear before him on another gun charge in the future. He has a way of connecting with defendants (my clients included) to the point where it seems that they don't want to let him down. I believe this approach is a big reason why out of hundreds of individuals sentenced by Judge DiClaudio on gun cases, only a handful of them have ever been arrested for another gun. I wish every judge had the capability of getting through to my clients the way Judge DiClaudio does.

We need more Judge DiClaudios in Philadelphia. He is simply one of the finest judges I have ever had the pleasure of being in front of, and this is an opinion shared by everyone I know at the Criminal Justice Center.

Very truly yours,



R. PATRICK LINK, ESQ.



March 15, 2021

RE: Honorable Scott DiClaudio

Dear Sir or Madam:

I write with respect to the Honorable Scott DiClaudio. I have known Judge DiClaudio for approximately 20 years. My initial impressions – *i.e.*, that he was an excellent attorney, gracious, and industrious – remain unchanged after two decades. The thousands of interactions I, my colleagues, and citizens I personally know throughout Philadelphia, have had with him in the ensuing years have added breadth, and more importantly depth, to these impressions.

I first encountered Judge DiClaudio while working as an assistant district attorney in Philadelphia shortly after being admitted to the Bar. He was highly regarded as a criminal defense attorney, and justly so. He was always prepared, knowledgeable as to the law, and completely familiar with the facts of each case. His courtroom presence was commanding and confident without condescension or unnecessary confrontation so often attendant adversarial court proceedings where a client's freedom lies in the balance. His demeanor surpassed respectful and was, in fact, friendly. This stood out in an environment where both qualities were in short supply.

As an adversary he was straightforward, honest in his dealings, and responsive to communications. He was professional, enjoyed a reputation for success, and his service was in high demand. These were all well-earned and due as the results he obtained for his client were excellent and, in many cases, life changing.

After working as prosecutor, I then served as a law clerk in Philadelphia's First Judicial District. Later still, I launched a law firm specializing in criminal defense with close colleagues. As I clerk who worked closely with courtroom staff and judges, I learned (and observed) that my own beliefs regarding Judge DiClaudio's reputation were shared unanimously throughout the courthouse. He was hard working, always available, conscientiously prepared, and never without a kind word despite a grueling case load. He was liked by the personnel staffing the courtrooms and respected by judges. Colleagues in the defense bar and assistant district attorneys both held his skills in high regard.

On a personal note, he was exceedingly compassionate when a close mutual friend suffered an untimely death. The genuineness of his response was beyond that which one would expect of a "work friend" and, in fact, superior to that offered by most personal friends.

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As a colleague in the defense bar, he was not competitive. Rather, he shared insights, advice, case law, arguments, and strategy willingly and generously. Each of the foregoing was of the highest quality. He was always approachable, open, helpful and friendly.

Given the nature of my practice, I have appeared before him many times since he took the bench. I have seen him handle hundreds of matters. Several things strike me about his work as a judge. He takes on a tremendous amount of work. His dockets are substantially longer than nearly all of his colleagues. More notable however, is the number of cases he is able to resolve, or move to the next stage of proceedings. Instead of managing long lists of matters with the familiar crutch of granting continuances, he works exceedingly hard outside of the courtroom to be fully prepared to resolve every case by becoming intimately familiar with the facts and the applicable law. He both pressures (often busy) attorneys to do the same, and simultaneously makes that possible by pointing their attention to the applicable case law and pivotal passages of testimony or evidence.

His demeanor on the bench is something to be lauded. He is compassionate, genuine, humane, fair, studied, and patient. He treats everyone with an interest in the proceedings in his courtroom with respect and professionalism without sacrificing the friendly demeanor which has served him so well.

He has been open with respect to his own failings, and has shown a desire to grow from them, move forward, and serve the citizens of Philadelphia. I would trust him to handle my own legal affairs, or those of someone whom I care deeply about. I would trust him to decide a legal matter of importance in my own life.

Judge DiClaudio is a person who has given much of himself to serve others without reluctance throughout the two decades that I have known him. He certainly has more to offer, and it would be a great detriment to see his service interrupted.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at:

James Lloyd, Esq.
1315 Walnut Street, Suite 1605
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 851-8800

Respectfully,
James Lloyd, Esquire

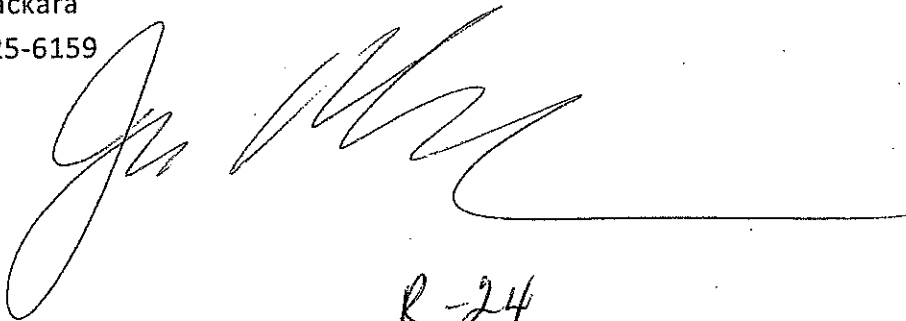
To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter to express my support for Judge Scott DiClaudio. I have worked in the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania for over 32 years. In my employment in our criminal justice system, I have worked as a Tipstaff with duties ranging from file delivery and distribution to my current and longtime position as a court crier. As a result, I have had thousands of hours interacting with and observing both our judiciary and the attorneys who practice before them.

I met Judge DiClaudio at the beginning of his practice of law and we have maintained an easy friendship ever since. I was extremely proud to see him ascend from the Bar to the Bench, and he asked me to open court on his first day in office. I have worked with many judges in many assignments from calendar rooms to homicide trials. I can honestly say that Judge DiClaudio's work ethic is unrivaled. He takes immense pleasure in running an efficient courtroom, starting sharply at 9:00 and addressing cases with thoughtful, careful analysis of the law and facts. He has embraced assignments which include hearing dozens to over one hundred cases per day. While maintaining such a heavy caseload, he treats everyone he encounters with a humble respect that speaks to the best qualities we wish for those who obtain the honor of judicial office. I know from personal conversations with many attorneys that Judge DiClaudio enjoys tremendous respect from the Philadelphia Bar and has an excellent reputation for delivering evenhanded decisions on behalf of not only the litigants before him, but the community as a whole.

Sincerely,

John Mackara
(267) 625-6159



R-24

Honorable Scott DiClaudio
Judge, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas
Criminal Justice Center
1301 Filbert St
Philadelphia, PA 19107

March 18, 2021

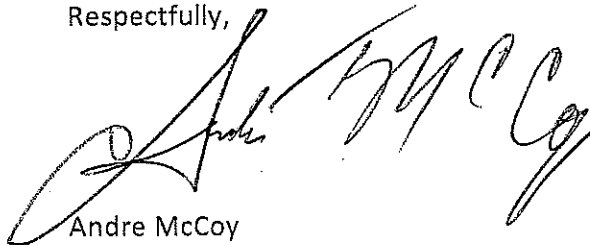
Dear Judge Scott DiClaudio:

I can not thank you enough for swearing in the Philadelphia LEASOT Academy 2020 class of special police (for non-profits) at the Criminal Justice Center, during the covid pandemic and in a severe snowstorm.

The candidates, many were Veterans, had been waiting throughout the year, delayed due to covid. Finally, the December date arrived, and you stepped up taking over for another Judge. Unbelievably, snow was called during the day of. The storm changed from bad to worse and the building staff was dismissed. My appreciation (and 19 others) that you stayed and that there was an attorney who could help. These special police can now serve nonprofits and the citizens of Philadelphia.

Additionally, As a member of the American Legion post 405 at the Union League of Philadelphia, I am grateful for your work in the judicial field and your efforts that day. Let me know how I can be of service.

Respectfully,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andre McCoy". The signature is written over a long diagonal line that extends from the bottom left towards the top right of the page.

Andre McCoy
Major (Ret), MBA

R-25

DiClaudio, Scott

From: edmeehan1420@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 1:31 PM
To: DiClaudio, Scott
Subject: Letter in Support of the Honorable Scott DiClaudio

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click on links or open any attachments unless you recognize the sender and confirmed the content is safe.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the Honorable Scott DiClaudio. I have known Judge DiClaudio for close to 30 years. First as an ADA in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, then as private defense counsel handling criminal cases, primarily in the Philadelphia Court system and finally, in his current position, as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. During that 30 years we have tried cases against each other when he was a, ADA and I was a Public Defender; later we tried cases together and were attorneys competing for clients and then as a Judge I have handled dozens of case before his Honor. I have never had a negative experience with Scott DiClaudio.

As a ADA, I found him to be ethical, skilled and reasonable. As young PDs and ADAs we were obviously competitive, but never once did I believe that Mr. DiClaudio was anything other than completely forthcoming with all required discovery. Mr. DiClaudio was a very skilled prosecutor. He was always prepared and knew his case inside and out. Mr DiClaudio also recognized when some cases warranted treatment that was outside the normal guidelines and had the courage to act with compassion in those circumstances.

As a defense attorney, I saw Mr DiClaudio on an almost daily basis handling matters in the Criminal Justice Center. He was essentially the same person I knew as an ADA, except his role in the process had changed. Mr DiClaudio was now a well-prepared, ethical colleague who passionately advocated for his clients.

Finally, as a Judge, I have handled dozens upon dozens of matters before Judge DiClaudio. As a Judge he has been hard-working, prepared, willing to listen to all parties, no matter the time required and fair in his decisions. Further, on most occasions, after, he has reached a decision, he is willing to discuss his reasoning. I know that, no matter the type of case, whenever one of my clients is appearing before Judge DiClaudio, that he or she will be treated with respect, with the opportunity to speak their mind and they will receive a result from a Judge that has spent time thinking about the case and my client. I know that Judge DiClaudio recognizes the impact of his decisions and genuinely cares about being fair and trying to get it right.

I fully support the Honorable Scott DiClaudio.

Respectfully,

Edward C. Meehan Jr, Esq.

h he will discuss s nl the same ethical, cordialv. < iknew as an ADA n rgas a result knew the problems knew the facts of his n n was anything less that are I never once believed he was holding back on evidence I was entitled, nor did I ever to aeI. xin a ..np D .

R-26

McMONAGLE PERRI
McHUGH MISCHAK DAVIS

TRIAL LAWYERS

A Professional Corporation

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Brian J. McMonagle
Fortunato N. Perri, Jr.
Walter J. McHugh
David B. Mischak

William M. Davis
Charles M. Gibbs
Raymond C. Driscoll
Steven B. Patton

March 15, 2021

Re: The Honorable Scott DiClaudio
Letter in support of character

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Judge DiClaudio. For many years, I knew Judge DiClaudio as a practicing attorney. Early in my career, he and I tried several jury trials together. I am forever appreciative of the fact that Judge DiClaudio took the time to teach me trial skills and more importantly, encouraged me to truly advocate for my clients' best interests in a professional, yet zealous manner. Further, by example, Judge DiClaudio instilled in me the significance of treating everybody with dignity and respect.

More recently, I have had the pleasure of appearing often before Judge DiClaudio on behalf of my clients in criminal court matters. Judge DiClaudio handles a high volume of cases and does so with even temperament. He blends efficiency with patience and all parties leave the case disposition feeling that they were treated with respect and fairness. Additionally, Judge DiClaudio treats every criminal defendant with individual attention showing them that the justice system cares about them as human beings. In turn, the defendants respect Judge DiClaudio and are motivated to succeed when they are given the opportunity of his supervision.

As practicing attorneys, whether prosecution or defense, we are fortunate to have Judge DiClaudio on the bench. He genuinely understands the demands of criminal practice on us as practicing attorneys and is very attentive to the plight of victims of crime and those accused of violating the law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



DAVID B. MISCHAK

R-27

LAW OFFICES
NASUTI & ASSOCIATES PC

CARMEN C. NASUTI, III
PARTNER

SUITE 770
2 PENN CENTER
1500 JOHN F. KENNEDY BLVD
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

CELL: (215) 665-1130
E-MAIL: (215) 680-1720
ccnasuti@gmail.com

March 31, 2021

RE: The Honorable Scott DiClaudio

To Who it May Concern,

I have known the Honorable Scott DiClaudio for the last 16 years, both as an attorney and as a Judge . During those 16 years, I have known him to have nothing but the highest quality of character. As an attorney, I have witnessed his dedication to his clients with zealous representation, while at the same time, treating opposing counsel, Commonwealth witnesses, and court staff with respect and kindness. As a judge, I've had the pleasure of appearing before Judge DiClaudio on many occasions. During the 5 or so years that Judge DiClaudio presided over a pretrial courtroom, I would appear before him at least once a week and many times it would be multiple times per week. While I was in his courtroom, Judge DiClaudio's demeanor while on the bench was attentive, thoughtful, courteous, and civil. He treats both defense counsel and representative from the Commonwealth with respect and dignity. The same is true when it comes to his court staff. Even when attorneys raise their voices, in the heat of the moment, while making arguments, Judge DiClaudio remains calm, civil, and gives fair consideration to what the attorney may be saying rather than how he or she might be saying it. It is a quality that I admire in Judge DiClaudio and, unfortunately, is a quality that is lacking in some courtrooms in Philadelphia.

Judge DiClaudio treats the defendants who appear before him with the same respect and civility that he shows to the attorneys in his courtroom. For the vast majority of his 5 plus years on the bench, Judge DiClaudio has sat in a pretrial room that often handles over a hundred cases daily. Despite that large number, the judge takes the time to talk to every defendant who appears before him. Judge DiClaudio takes the time to fully explain what is going on with an individual's case and answers any and every question that any defendant might have. Sometimes, while I am waiting for my case to be called, I hear a defendant ask a question that I've heard multiple times previously that day. While I can feel my frustration growing inside me, Judge DiClaudio gives the appearance that it is the first time he has heard the question and answers thoroughly with as much explanation as is needed until the defendant fully understands the situation.

R-28

Judge DiClaudio takes extra time to talk with every defendant who pleads guilty of firearm charges in front of him. He has a lengthy conversation about the harms and risks involved with illegal firearms. Its clear to me during these discussions that the judge is talking "with" the defendant when many other judges talk "at" the defendant. His purpose of taking the extra time is an effort, on his part, to reduce recidivism rates for everyone who appears before him. And it works. Judge DiClaudio has accepted guilty pleas on thousands of illegal firearm possession cases and only a small handful of them have been subsequently arrested and charged with firearm possession again. The commitment and compassion that Judge DiClaudio has while he is on the bench directly results in positive change throughout Philadelphia.

In short, it is my opinion that Judge DiClaudio is a model judge who treats everyone who enters his courtroom with respect and dignity.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call me at the above listed phone number.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Carmen C. Nasuti III

CARMEN C. NASUTI III, ESQ.



FREEDMAN & LORRY PC
DEBORAH COOPER NIXON, ESQ.
CRIMINAL, CIVIL RIGHTS, PERSONAL INJURY

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April 8, 2021

In support of Judge Scott Claudio:

By way of background, I was an Assistant District Attorney for 24 years and now am in private practice with the law firm of Freedman and Lorry, P.C. When I first retired from the District Attorney's office, I was hired by Fellheimer & Eichen, LLP and ultimately managed their criminal practice.

I came to know the judge best when I started doing defense work. Although I spent several years in rape and homicide as an ADA, I was a novice handling drug cases and the like as a defense attorney. What I remember the most in those initial years was the way Judge DiClaudio spoke to my clients. He gave them dignity and really listened to their plight. I remember one client who wanted to be a chef, but his lack of education and an addiction to marijuana kept him from realizing his dream. It was Judge Claudio's inspirational speech that kept him going and trying to achieve this goal while on probation. He is now in a GED program and chef school.

I have been before many judges in my career, and some unfortunately play to the media or vary based on the type of defendant. It has been my observation that Judge DiClaudio is really committed to making the city safer, respecting victims, and assisting defendants who want to make a change for the better. Please take these things into consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Nixon

R 29

JOE O'DONNELL, ESQUIRE
Barbary Barrister
#21433

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Telephone (215) 426-3245
Cell: (609)351-2728

3/16/2021

Judicial Review Board
Supreme Court of PA

RE: *Good CHARACTER REFERENCE For
C.P. Judge Scott DiClaudio [First Judicial District]*

GREETINGS:

Please add my support to the abovenamed outstanding Judge currently under your disciplinary supervision.

In my 45 years of Criminal Defense representation, I have NEVER seen a more hard working, intelligent and effective Judge.

Furthermore, Judge DiClaudio comports Himself clearly and respectfully toward both Prosecutors and Defense counsel as well as toward the court staff and witnesses, both Official and Civilian.

In short, I wish we had more like this incomparable Judge, who is certainly a credit to the Bench. Thank you.

Appreciative of Your Enlightened Consideration,
I remain,


JOE O'DONNELL, ESQ.

R-30

Gregory J. Pagano, P.C.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Gregory J. Pagano
Sarah A. Jones*
George V. Troilo
Henry M. George*
Licensed PA & NJ*

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March 4, 2021

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have known the Honorable Scott DiClaudio for over 20 years.

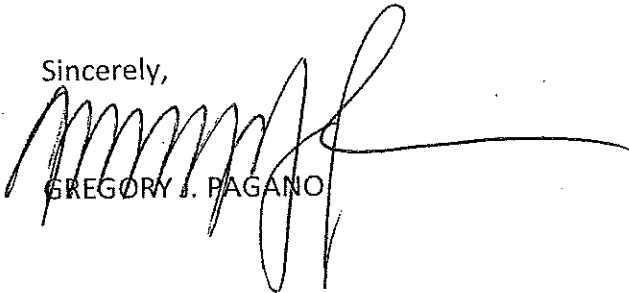
I first met him when I was a newly admitted attorney and working as a law clerk in 1993. I watched him litigate many hearings and trials while I was employed as a law clerk. He conducted himself in a professional manner, he was well prepared and well-liked by the judges.

I got to know Judge DiClaudio when he was a practicing attorney. We represented codefendants in several cases in state and federal courts. He was a zealous advocate and he had a very loyal client base. It appeared that he had a successful law practice for many years before ascending to the bench.

As a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas he brings a wealth of unparalleled experience and he is fair and practical. He knows the law and the rules of evidence and he follows them punctiliously. I did not support him in his election campaign for judge. Nevertheless, he treated me as he did all litigants. He is fair to all that appear before him and he treats everyone the same. I have appeared before him over one hundred times. His work ethic is excellent and he is punctual and expeditious.

Judge DiClaudio is an asset to the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia. My sentiments are shared by many criminal defense attorneys, prosecutors, probation officers and court staff. It is my hope that he continues to serve as a member of the bench of this county for many years to come.

Sincerely,



GREGORY J. PAGANO

R-31



March 15, 2021

Re: Letter on behalf of Judge DiClaudio

To Whom It May Concern,

I have known Judge DiClaudio for some time now starting back to around 1995 when I had just finished college and was working as a tipstaff to the Honorable Joan A. Brown in courtroom 636 of City Hall. He was a defense attorney at the time and the reason I remember him so well was because of his demeanor towards me. I was a young kid just out of college and unlike a number of the other attorneys I came into contact with, he never treated me like I was beneath him. He treated me as an equal not as a subordinate. That has stayed with me and I have tried to use his example in how I now interact with people since I became an attorney.

Over the next few years I would see Judge DiClaudio, still working as a defense attorney, over and over in court while I was working for Judge Brown and then when I started as a law clerk for the Economic Crimes Unit of the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. When he heard that I was in law school during that time he would always ask how things were going, what classes I was taking and jokingly whether I was really sure I wanted to be an attorney and that maybe going into the financial industry was a better idea. He would never hesitate to answer many of the legal questions I had. He would break things down how the law worked in the real world as opposed to a text book. He was very good at this and that's why if I had a legal question I would seek him out. He always would help me out.

While I was in law school, a good friend of mine was arrested for DUI. That friend asked if I knew someone who might be able to represent him and walk him through the process being that it was his first arrest and he was scared to death. I reached out to Judge DiClaudio and told him about the situation. He told me to have my friend contact him and that he would take care of him. Months later I ran into my friend and asked him how things had turned out with court. He told me that Judge DiClaudio took his case, won it and that he was ecstatic about how everything worked out. I was curious, so I asked how much he was charged the case. He looked at me surprisingly and said, "you know he never charged me anything, he just said do good in school and stay out of trouble." My friend did not come from any means and was working while in college to help pay his tuition. I will never forget that Judge DiClaudio saw this and did his case for free.

R-32

After finishing law school and when I became an Assistant District Attorney there were many times that the Judge and I faced off against each. No matter what the outcome he would always say good job. I remember there would times he would tell me before a trial, "Remind me to tell you afterwards why you lost this case." After the case was over, and I won, we would laugh it off. We would be opponents many times while I was in the DA's Office until I left and went into private practice. Going from prosecution to defense was not easy, yet again, any time I had a question about the practice from the defense side, Judge DiClaudio would always give me advice without question.

Judge DiClaudio was then elected as Judge and I have had the occasion to be in front of him often. As a judge, he is the same person on the bench that I have known for years. He treats everyone with respect and as an equal. It does not matter if a person appears before him as a defendant, witness, sheriff, court staff or civilian he treats everyone with the same amount of courtesy. He is fair and impartial to both the prosecution and defense. I honestly believe he is trying to do the best for the Philadelphia community and for the defendants he sees before him. Over the years that I have known Judge DiClaudio I believe him to be a good man and a good Judge. If there is anything else I can add, please contact me at your earliest convenience so that I may provide it. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Michael Parkinson

**McMONAGLE PERRI
McHUGH MISCHAK DAVIS**

TRIAL LAWYERS

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Walter J. McHugh
David B. Mischak

William M. Davis
Charles M. Gibbs
Raymond C. Driscoll
Steven B. Patton

March 1, 2021

Re: Judge Scott DiClaudio
Letter in support of character

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of The Honorable Scott DiClaudio who is someone I've known professionally, both as a practicing attorney and a member of the bench, for over thirty years. I am a former Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia and have been in private practice since 1990.

It has been my pleasure to appear often before Judge DiClaudio on behalf of my clients for matters involving bench trials, non-trial dispositions and other pre-trial status motions. He has always displayed outstanding temperament and is well prepared as he managed a criminal list that included several hundred cases per week.

Most importantly, I am always impressed by the trust he develops with most criminal defendants as he supervises them through a period of probation or parole. He earns the respect of the defendants because he genuinely cares about their progress and it is abundantly clear that he wants individuals to have a positive and successful experience while under his supervision. I've observed as the Judge engages dialogue directly with the defendants as they navigate the system. He genuinely understands the hurdles and difficulties including drug addiction and poverty they face on a daily basis. And nothing makes him more proud than when he sees someone who successfully completes the Judge's supervision. Judge DiClaudio is an example of a Judge who has a passion for the justice system.

I hope I have been able to provide some insight to my knowledge of Judge DiClaudio.

Yours Very Truly,


FORTUNATO N. PERRI, JR.

R-33

A. Charles Peruto, Jr.
Attorneys at Law

A. Charles Peruto, Jr.*
Anthony F. Llist, Jr.**

*Member P.A., N.J., N.Y. Bar
** Member of P.A. Bar

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March 3, 2021

RE: Honorable Scott DiClaudio
Judge of the Court of Common Pleas
First Judicial District

To whom it may concern:

I have known Judge DiClaudio in excess of 30 years. I have had cases with him as co-counsel, socialized with him, and appeared before him many times.

I have heard that Judge DiClaudio is in some sort of difficulty for not responding to a personal matter in Montgomery County. This letter is to shed light on the Honorable Scott DiClaudio that I know.

Approximately 3 years ago, I had a matter with the Judge where it was very difficult to understand him. The District Attorney, myself and the Judge were having an off the record conversation, where it was abundantly clear that the Judge was in a great deal of dental pain. I asked him why he wasn't taking care of that, and his response was "As the smart room Judge, it's difficult to take a day off because you disappoint about 60 people."

That statement has never left my mind. If you have any familiarity with the way a smart room works in Philadelphia County, you will understand that those 3 or 4 Judges that run those rooms have the most responsibility of any other Judge that sits in the criminal division. They hear about 15 guilty pleas a day, where as Judge DiClaudio hears about 25. They might here one or two motions a week, where the Judge hears 5 motions and 5 non-jury trials.

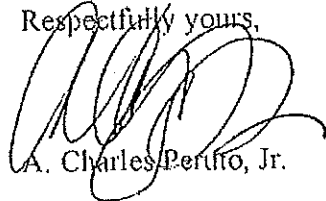
Court statistics will show that he is the hardest working Judge in the criminal division. While he made many friends in the District Attorney's Office doing that, he certainly agitated court reporters, criers, tip staffs, and clerks. These are people who do not take working late lightly.

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To say that he is conscientious as a Judge is an understatement. This brings us to the matter at hand. The Judge could have easily taken the time and tended to this matter, for which he has been punished severely. He has already paid a health club that did nothing for him 10 times what they were entitled to, but because he did not handle it in person, he accepts the fact that it will cost him that much more. However, to penalize one of our best Judges even further, belies what is really happening here.

Therefore, I would ask that you give great weight to this man's performance while on the bench before thinking about any sanctions.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Charles Perillo, Jr.", written over the typed name.

A. Charles Perillo, Jr.

ACP/ajd

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March 22, 2021

Court of Judicial Discipline
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 5500
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17106

Re: Honorable Scott DiClaudio

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is written on behalf of the Honorable Scott DiClaudio of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

I have been practicing law for over 38 years. My current and primary area of practice is criminal defense in Philadelphia. Over the course of my career, I have also been involved in civil litigation in the Court of Common Pleas in counties throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as in the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. I have handled appeals in the Pennsylvania Superior and Supreme Courts, as well as the Third Circuit Court of Appeal. Consequently, I have appeared before hundreds of judges over my years of practice, including Judge DiClaudio.

Based on my personal experience and observations, I firmly believe that Judge DiClaudio adheres to the highest ideals of judicial service and has made a significant, positive impact on the quality and administration of criminal justice in Philadelphia. In the past, Judge DiClaudio oversaw a Pretrial or Smart Room where pleas are taken. He assumed the bench everyday promptly at 9:00 A.M. He worked tirelessly through each session often handling over 100 cases a day. In each case, he would spend as much time as necessary to understand the facts and nuances of the case. He would then undertake a fair and well-balanced approach to dispensing justice, respecting the rights of both victims and criminal defendants and always exhibiting the upmost courtesy to the lawyers appearing before him and the court staff working in his courtroom.

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Court of Judicial Discipline

March 22, 2021

Page Two

More recently, Judge DiClaudio assumed a Majors Room handling both criminal jury and bench trials, as well as pleas and other non-trial dispositions. He continues to assume the bench promptly every morning and work diligently through his list of cases. He is extremely knowledgeable and up-to-date in the law. He often draws upon his experiences as both a former prosecutor and a former criminal defense attorney to dispense justice in his courtroom evenly and fairly.

Judge DiClaudio's desire to make a difference and improve the criminal justice system is also perhaps best demonstrated by some of his work off the bench. Judge DiClaudio spends a significant amount of personal time volunteering for community service organizations where he works hand-and-hand with defendants he ordered to perform community service as part of their sentence. Judge DiClaudio teaches by example and shows a personal interest in those individuals who demonstrate a genuine desire to turn their lives around. I cannot think of any other judge who puts words into action off the bench to help those who want to make a positive and long term change in their lives.

I hope this letter provides you with some insight into Judge DiClaudio's valued role as a judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

Very truly yours,



ANTHONY J. PETRONE

AJP/cb

To Whom it May Concern, regarding Judge Scott DiClaudio:

Judge Scott DiClaudio has so many of the qualities that make him the finest Judge I have ever had the pleasure to know as a human being and to argue in front of as a lawyer. He is incredibly hard working, super diligent to his job and aware of the responsibilities that it entails. He is respectful of those who argue in front of him, and work in his courtroom, as human beings. He does have high expectations of their work, but it comes from a place of knowing that is required of his job. He understands that the people who have been accused of crimes and listed in his courtroom deserve nothing less.

Let me introduce myself and why I think you should listen to my opinion. I have been a Philadelphia Public Defender for over 10 years as an attorney. I went to law school at night while working full time for a private criminal defense attorney and prior to that I was a paralegal in the Defender Office for 5 years. I have argued in front of, and gotten to know, literally dozens of judges at all levels of the criminal justice system. It is obvious to see which judges view their job as a privilege, rather than a responsibility. I have been in front of many judges who show scorn and disrespect for those who work in their courtroom, both court staff and attorneys. So many judges disrespect my clients and judge them for their actions rather than as the human beings they are.

Judge Scott DiClaudio respects my clients as people and demonstrates that with his actions. When I worked with him in the East Smartroom Pre-trial room, we regularly had huge lists running over 100 people on it. Judge DiClaudio would always ensure that every client's case was heard, and that nobody would be just ignored and continued for lack of time or effort. Sometimes this led to long days, and unhappy court staff, but Judge DiClaudio understood that each client on that list is a human being, and there is a responsibility to make sure that their matter is heard that day (especially for my custody clients). We often had what he called 'working lunches' in which the DA's, PD's, and court staff all ate together in the back of the courtroom (often with food paid for completely by the Judge) both to foster collegiality among all of us 'co-workers' thrown together for so many hours but also to be able to get back to work as quickly as possible and make sure every client's case could be heard completely.

There are two other specific examples of Judge DiClaudio exhibiting his judicial qualities with his actions. The first is the winter of 2016. I woke up on a Tuesday morning to a foot of snow and everything closed. This was a disaster for my clients listed that day in custody as their cases would be continued by court administration for a month or so down the road. Judge DiClaudio had only been elected a few months earlier, but I reached out to him (and my DA of course) to ask what could be done to try to address my custody clients listed that day, and get those out of jail that we could. Judge DiClaudio was immediately responsive and caring about my custody clients and avoiding this very painful continuance and he got the court staff and DA to agree to address custody matters, roll cases to the next day if necessary, and got everyone's case heard as quickly as possible. This was not the most popular move but it was one that clearly demonstrates his priorities and values.

The other best example of Judge DiClaudio's actions showing his judicial values is his community service project at Manna. I often made the argument to Judge DiClaudio that a better response to lesser crimes or probation violations such as marijuana possession and usage would be ordering community service rather than locking my clients up, even for very short periods of time. Judge DiClaudio did me one better. He would organize a group of these defendants to do community service at Manna and then he would be there (along with the lawyers and court staff that he could cajole to come along),

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volunteering right alongside them. This would show my clients that he valued the hard work of community service itself, which many took to heart. It showed that he respected those who came in front of him accused of crimes or probation violations as human beings. That he considered himself no better than them and he acted this way both in his courtroom and outside. The large color photos of these outings that he proudly displays in his courtroom are a sign for all who enter what kind of Judge they are encountering.

Every lawyer will tell you that their 'favorite judge' is the fairest of them all. But Judge Scott DiClaudio really is and he demonstrates this with his actions. As his Public Defender for almost two years I lost countless motions, trials, and requests. But every time, my client and I felt heard and understood why he was making his decision, even when we honestly thought he was wrong. And when we could discuss it later, he could take my opinion that he was wrong and we could respect where the other was coming from and why they felt this way. Every lawyer I know had this experience with Judge DiClaudio. He really wanted to listen to your argument, though he would certainly probe it with pointed questions (as someone who has decades of private criminal defense experience), searching for what he needed to make his decision. He would render it, and explain it, to the client and to both sides, making sure that those who didn't agree with him understood why he made the decision he did.

Please accept this testimonial for what its worth. Judge Scott DiClaudio should be receiving an award for his judicial temperament, hard work and dedication to his craft. I'm happy to discuss and questions anyone may have about this letter or regarding Judge Scott DiClaudio.

SKA

Law Group, LLC | Pennsylvania and New Jersey Licensed Attorneys

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March 8, 2021

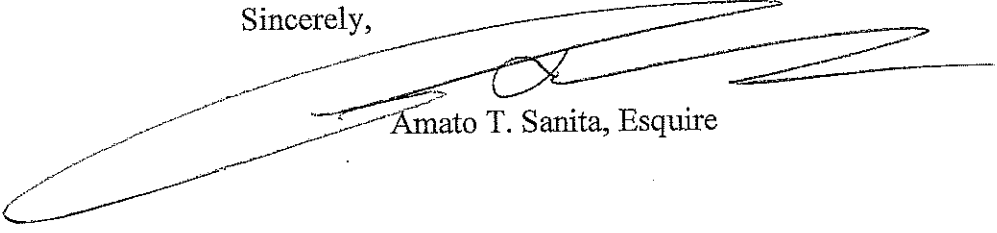
Dear Court of Judicial Discipline,

I am writing to you today in my capacity as a member of the Pennsylvania and Philadelphia bars as well as a criminal defense attorney having practiced directly before the Honorable Scott DiClaudio, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. As an attorney in my 25th year of practicing law in Philadelphia, I have spent a considerable amount of time representing individuals in courtrooms 905 and 1001 before His Honor. I feel compelled to express my personal positive perception of his Honor's demeanor, concern and even-handedness when presiding over criminal cases involving defendant's accused of serious crimes in Philadelphia. This perception is by no means an endorsement of His Honor being either overly "soft or hard" on crime. In fact, what occurs daily on His Honor's docket is quite different than what often occurs in various other courtrooms. The time His Honor spends directly talking to those before him is incredible given the large volume of cases heard by His Court on a daily basis. By projecting a positive feeling to those in his room of "being the only one spoken to" defendants, their families and victims before the Court are shown just how much Judge DiClaudio cares about them. This writing is simply an endorsement of the manner in which His Honor treats each and every defendant and complainant on a daily basis regardless of their specific case.

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In my 25 years of practicing criminal defense, I have personally found it to be refreshing knowing that if a criminal matter is being heard before His Honor, I could expect a fair result, notwithstanding the ultimate outcome. It is obvious to anyone present in His courtroom that Judge DiClaudio is always well prepared, humble and inquisitive of what really happens to individuals during times of peril in Philadelphia. To this extent, I have witnessed Judge DiClaudio working with some of his probationers at a local food bank, I have witnessed Judge DiClaudio reach out and physically hug very hurt individuals who come before him, and I have witnessed Judge DiClaudio apologize to families who are clearly impacted by an individual serving a sentence in order to make up for a crime they have committed. To this extent what happens in Judge DiClaudio's courtroom on a daily basis is an accurate snapshot of what often occurs in the city of Philadelphia to real people. By offering these individuals a ray of hope that their lives can and will get better through His own personal judicial intervention, Judge DiClaudio clearly is invested in their lives. And it is because of Judge DiClaudio's investment in the lives of real Philadelphians that I express my feeling about him to the Board.

Sincerely,



Amato T. Sanita, Esquire

Geoffrey V. Seay

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Seaylaw@aol.com

March 1, 2021

Re: The Honorable Scott DiClaudio, Character Letter

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing this letter in support of Judge Scott DiClaudio, whom I have known professionally for almost 30 years. I first met him while I was an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia and he was working there while still in law school. I worked there from 1989 through 1993 and have maintained my own private practice since, focusing primarily on criminal defense. I have appeared before Judge DiClaudio too many times to count, for Pre-Trial Conferences, Pre-Trial Motions, Guilty Pleas, Sentencings and Violation of Probation hearings.

I have known Judge DiClaudio to always be a fair judge. He is very hardworking and diligent, as evidenced by the Court assigning him to a room that handles Pre-Trial Conferences. He always starts at 9 a.m., which is a pleasure for a private attorney, and works diligently to complete his list. If not for his diligence, hard work and fairness, many of those cases would not be resolved and would clog up the criminal justice system unnecessarily. His prior experience on both sides of the bench allows him to fully appreciate the monumental task assigned to him daily. His fairness and respectfulness to not only both sides of the bar, but also to defendants and victims, show his excellent jurisprudence.

In addition, he has attempted to implement programs for offenders that appear before him. He has worked to have those on his probation to be able to give back to the community in more ways than sweeping a street. His forethought and compassion allows offenders the right to become productive citizens, not merely statistics.

Thank you for your courtesies in this matter. If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey V. Seay

GEOFFREY V. SEAY, ESQUIRE

GVS/ts

2-38

Scott Sigman
Attorney at Law

Scott P. Sigman[†]

[†]Member P.A. Bar

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March 12, 2021

Re: **Honorable Scott DiClaudio**

To whom it may concern:

I met the Judge Scott DiClaudio 22 years ago in 1999 while working as a certified legal intern at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. At the time, Judge DiClaudio was a criminal defense attorney primarily working in the Criminal Justice Center in Philadelphia. I was always impressed by his advocacy for his clients.

Over the years, I truly got to know Judge DiCaludio, his then wife Meredith, and his daughter Gabe.

I found Judge DiClaudio to be a great father to his daughter and tough opponent while I was an Assistant District Attorney. His advocacy for his clients was strong.

Eventually, I went into private practice and served on several boards with Judge DiClaudio's then wife Meredith. I always knew Judge DiClaudio to be a good person and respected among his peers.

After Judge DiClaudio was elected to the bench, I came to know his reputation in the Criminal Justice Center as a fair and even judge, respected by prosecutors and defense attorneys. He primarily worked in a "Smart Room" where he was able to dispose of many cases because of his judicial temperament. Both sides felt confident in resolving cases in his room where he maintained a balanced approach to imposing punishment. Many Defendants were placed on his strict supervision and often sent to volunteer at Manna. Judge DiClaudio himself would go in person to Manna and work with these Defendants in the Manna kitchen. Judge DiClaudio was especially known for his handling of Defendants with firearms and his success rate in reducing their recidivism.

On one particular occasion where special police officers needed to be sworn in during a snow storm, Judge DiClaudio took over the responsibility from another judge who was unable to handle the ceremony, and remained in the Criminal Justice Center during the snow storm to swear in each special police officer, many of whom were veterans. At the time Judge DiClaudio had no courtroom staff because of the storm and asked me to assist in the ceremony. This is one of countless examples of Judge DiClaudio

R-39

going above and beyond for the citizens of Philadelphia.

Recently, Judge DiClaudio was moved to a "Majors" room where he handles Major Jury trials and PCRA cases.

In October, I appeared before Judge DiClaudio for one of the few jury trials conducted in Philadelphia County since March, 2020. I was able to see his exceptional judicial demeanor in handling jury selection and the jury trial itself.

I personally handled many criminal and civil jury trials of the course of 20 years, and can say with certainty that Judge DiClaudio conducted himself in a way that had the respect of both prosecutor and defense attorney throughout the trial. In fact, Judge DiClaudio also had the respect of the Defendant.

Judge DiClaudio has a reputation in the Criminal Justice Center for being a hard worker and a fair judge. He recently took on another assignment in his Major's room where he now handles PCRA Petition cases. I have been

working on a committee with Judge DiClaudio, prosecutors, and defense attorneys to improve the PCRA process. Judge DiClaudio wants to streamline the process and avoid unnecessary delays. His new approach to the PCRA process will significantly improve the administration of justice in these cases.

Judge DiClaudio is a dedicated public servant who works hard and is respected among his peers, attorneys, and even defendants. I truly believe that he has done great things for society and the administration of justice in Philadelphia, and

I along with many prosecutors and defense attorneys hope that Judge DiClaudio will remain in place as Judge in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

Very truly yours,

Scott Sigman

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March 22, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Honorable Scott DiClaudio

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is written on behalf of the Honorable Scott DiClaudio of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

I have been practicing law in Philadelphia County and the surrounding counties as well as the federal courts in three (3) states for over thirty (30) years. As such, I have been in front of hundreds of distinctly different judges.

Based on those appearances, I evaluate judges based on a list of simple criteria.

- 1) knowledge of the law
- 2) fairness
- 3) consistency
- 4) work ethic
- 5) compassion
- 6) honesty and respect
- 7) dedication to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

With regard to Judge DiClaudio, he is very knowledgeable of the law and is actively involved in learning any and all new decisions by the Appellate Courts.

Judge DiClaudio displays fairness in each and every decision and that fairness extends to all individuals involved in the matter, complainant, defendant and lawyers.

Judge DiClaudio is consistent in all of his decisions which makes the practice of law fair and equitable to all parties in his court. Complainants and defendants alike appreciate the forthright and honest application of his decisions.

R-40

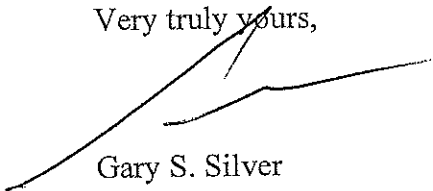
March 22, 2021
Page two

Judge DiClaudio comes to court each and every day with the work ethic to earn the salary he is paid by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its citizens. Judge DiClaudio takes the necessary time to learn all about a case, the law of that case, the complainant and the defendant's issues. He shows compassion and dedication to all participants in a specific matter. He takes the necessary time to make correct and fair decisions. Also, he allows all participants, even the most talkative lawyers to fully argue their cases and he does so with attention to detail and with respect to each and every individual in the case.

In addition, Judge DiClaudio has immersed himself in community volunteering and inviting all to participate in these good works. He leads by example not just by words. He inspires those who are less fortunate by showing that change is not only possible but achievable.

I am very taken aback that he faces this situation because in total honesty, he has proven by his work that he is one of the best judges in our system and it is not just lawyers and employees but it is the complainants and defendants who feel this way about Judge DiClaudio.

Very truly yours,



Gary S. Silver

GSS/amw

Jeff Snyder, Esq.
1301 Filbert Street
Ste 1415
Philadelphia, PA 19102

To Whom it May Concern,

I have known Judge DiClaudio for close to 40 years having gone to Undergraduate and Law School together. It may seem I would be a little biased, however I feel I am as qualified as anyone to describe his character and work ethic.

To show how highly my wife and I think of him, when my daughters were young and my wife and I made our first will, we chose Scott and his wife to take care of our daughters in case my wife and I both perished. That was over siblings my wife and I both had. He has always been a person you can always count on, with the highest level of integrity and caring you would want in a person raising your children.

When Judge DiClaudio first became a judge he asked me to be his personal. Although I graduated law school I chose to work in a family business for 30 years. The first thing that caught my eye was how easily he took to his new job. I always knew he was highly intelligent and well versed in the law, but there would seem to be a learning curve for his new position. There wasn't. He was outstanding from day one. Showing respect to both members of the bar, defendants, family and witnesses. Although it would seem rather tedious, he spends time talking to all defendants, whether the first case or the 140th case at 4:30. He tells them exactly what he expects of them and how only they control the rest of their lives. This individual attention he pays has certainly paid off. We have close to 500 early terminations of probation.

I believe he is most proud of the lack of recidivism on defendants convicted of guns. He tells them in no uncertain terms what will happen if they come back with another gun case. He spends about 15 minutes explaining to them how their lives will be ruined and they will be going up state. Of the over 1200 gun cases we've had only 5 have come back with another gun. To their credit all 5 knew exactly where they were going and took it like a man.

Now I am certainly not here to say he is perfect. He certainly made the mistake of not showing up in court. I do know it was because he takes his job so seriously and truly knows he is making a difference. We start every day at 9:00 and we have been 1 of only maybe 3 other judges who have been in our building almost everyday since we were allowed to return in June.

I just believe, and I know this is the opinion of many, that it would do so much more harm than good to keep him away from the bench for any period of time. He is not only the best judge in the building, but a great person.

Regards,
Jeff Snyder



R-41

To whom it may concern.

My name is Nicholas Stampone and I have been a Court Clerk for the First Judicial District for 40 years. For the last 6 years I have had the pleasure of working in Judge DiClaudio's court room. I just wanted to let you know the utmost respect I have for him as a judge.

It actually started the first week. I had never seen a new judge take to the job so effortlessly. He has always shown respect to everyone who comes in his court room. This includes both sides of the bar, defendants, family members, sheriffs, police officers etc. He treats all people the way he would want to be treated in return. He is the perfect judge to work for because he is always on time. 9:00 A.M. I open court every day. You don't know how frustrating it is to work for a judge who comes in at all different times, or worse a judge that starts at 11:00. It just makes everybody's job in the court room that much easier. It shows his staff how much respect he has for us.

His demeanor and professionalism with defendants is unparalleled. He takes his time with every defendant. There was a time when we were in a S.M.A.R.T. room when we had close to 150 cases a day. People would have to sit outside because we were over capacity. Judge DiClaudio would still give each person the same amount of time to either explain his decision, or explain what he was expecting of them. Sometimes it could get a bit tedious but the staff soon learned that it was the proper thing to do and something that ALL judges should adhere to.

I just wanted to lend my voice to the many who believe Judge DiClaudio is probably the best legal mind on the bench and certainly the best judge I have seen in my 40 years.

Respectfully,



Nicholas Stampone

R-42

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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ALAN KAPLAN
AKAPLAN@S2FIRM.COM

* ALSO MEMBER OF NJ BAR

March 18, 2021

JUDICIAL CONDUCT BOARD
601 Commonwealth Avenue
Suite #3500
Harrisburg, PA 171720

RE: THE HONORABLE SCOTT DICLAUDIO

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please be advised that I have known Scott DeClaudio professionally for the past twenty (20) years. Focusing on my experiences in Judge DeClaudio's courtroom, I have been extremely impressed with his demeanor on the bench, as well as the efficient and fair way that he oversees the many cases on his daily calendar.

Based on his vast experience as a criminal defense lawyer, I certainly expected Judge DiClaudio to be astute as it relates to issues of law that arise. What I did not expect was his uncanny ability to have all parties feel "heard". No matter the result, it is my belief that defendants, their families as well as victims and police leave Judge DiClaudio's courtroom feeling that justice was carried out honorably.

Respectfully yours,


S. PHILIP STEINBERG, ESQUIRE

SPS/am

R-43

SZANTO LAW, LLC
100 SOUTH BROAD STREET, SUITE 1216
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19110
215-346-5905

March 3, 2021

Re: The Honorable Scott DiClaudio, Character Letter

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Honorable Scott DiClaudio as an attestation to his excellent character and judicial temperament. I have known Judge DiClaudio professionally for almost 10 (ten) years. I worked as a Public Defender with The Defender Association of Philadelphia from 2012 to 2016 at which time I resigned to open my own private criminal defense firm where I continue to practice law. Throughout the duration of my practice as a lawyer, I've worked alongside Judge DiClaudio while he was in private practice, and now appear before him in his capacity as a Judge.

As a Judge, Scott DiClaudio embodies and displays the highest degree of respect for all attorneys, complainants, and defendants who appear before him. He treats attorneys for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as well as criminal defense attorneys with equal courtesy and professionalism, and the same can be said for the defendants and complainants who appear before him. As a criminal defense attorney, I have been before Judge DiClaudio dozens of times for many different reasons such as pre-trial conferences, guilty pleas, sentencing hearings, and have also litigated numerous motions. He is knowledgeable in the law, professional in the disposition of his duties as a Judge, and a pleasure to work with. Judge DiClaudio is fair to everyone and is known for being open-minded yet serious about his oath and responsibilities as a Judge.

Furthermore, Judge DiClaudio is one of the hardest working judges in the Criminal Justice Center. He begins Court promptly at nine o'clock every day, and as his courtroom was one of the busiest in the Criminal Justice Center prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, at which time he was known for sometimes hearing close to 100 matters in a single day, and giving each case before him the attention it merited.

In closing, I'd like to reiterate what a pleasure it is to practice law before Judge DiClaudio and thank you for your careful attention to this letter. Please feel free to follow up with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Jules Szanto, Esq.
Szanto Law, LLC
100 South Broad Street, Suite 1216
Philadelphia, PA 19110
(215) 346-5905
szantolaw@gmail.com

R-44



March 12, 2021

Re: The Honorable Scott DiClaudio

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to strongly endorse the character of Judge Scott DiClaudio. I have known him for approximately twenty years. We first met in 2001 when I was a first year Assistant District for Philadelphia and Judge DiClaudio was working as a private defense attorney. I specifically recall sitting on the benches outside the courtroom at the 18th Police District after a particular tough day in court as a brand new ADA and Judge DiClaudio sitting down next me completely unsolicited and giving me some much needed advice and encouragement. That is something he continued to do throughout my career as he did for many other attorneys.

Despite his kindness outside the courtroom, I always knew Judge DiClaudio as a very tough adversary inside the courtroom as a defense attorney. When I was at the District Attorney's Office my colleagues and I knew you were in for a battle when facing him in court. We also knew that he was a man of his word.

Judge DiClaudio is a serious and conscientious jurist. But being elected to bench has not given him an over exaggerated sense of self-importance. He treats everyone in the courtroom with good humor, dignity and respect. Having him on the bench is benefit to the entire City of Philadelphia. Any evaluation of Judge DiClaudio would be deficient without taking into account his impact within the courtroom. Simply put, he gets it. Everything he has done in his career has led him to and prepared him to be a Judge. To do anything to deprive our city of his abilities would be a mistake.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Timothy Tarpey

Timothy Tarpey, Esq.

R-45

THE
TINARI LAW FIRM

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PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

DELAWARE COUNTY OFFICE:
1 VETERANS SQUARE, STE. 106
MEDIA, PA 19063

TELEPHONE: 215-569-2551
FACSIMILE: 215-405-2561
EMAIL: eugene@etinarilaw.com

March 18, 2021

Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania

Re: Honorable Scott DiClaudio

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Honorable Scott DiClaudio in the hopes that you will consider this at the disposition hearing for his matter involving misconduct. I have known Judge DiClaudio for over 30 years both as a friend, prosecutor, defense attorney, and now judge. I can honestly say that he is a person of utmost integrity, character, sincerity, and honesty. I am certain that this unfortunate incident was an aberration in what has otherwise been an exemplary lifestyle in my opinion. Having appeared in front of hundreds of judges over the course of my career, I have never seen a jurist dispose of cases with as much understanding, compassion, and fairness to all parties. I believe Judge DiClaudio with a background in both prosecution and criminal defense has a unique ability to understand both sides of arguments and render a fair decision taking into consideration human frailties as well as the needs of victims. There are not many judges who come to the bench with as much experience as Judge DiClaudio. For years he was one of the busiest criminal defense practitioners in the city of Philadelphia and surrounding counties. He had an excellent reputation as a prosecutor as well as an attorney for vigorously defending and prosecuting every case in which he was involved. I am certain Judge DiClaudio regrets having to appear before this Board for his lack of judgment in accepting the fact that he should have appeared in court on this personal lawsuit.

Judge DiClaudio for the past several years has presided over thousands of cases and it is always a pleasure to appear in his courtroom. With Judge DiClaudio on the bench one never observes an ill temper, sour demeanor, nor irascible behavior towards litigants. To the contrary, he is courteous, attentive, and swiftly moves cases while preserving fairness, due process, and the rights of an accused as well as victims.

Outside of the courtroom, I have come to know Judge DiClaudio through years of playing softball with him and others. Judge DiClaudio is what I would consider a great family man. He constantly speaks about his daughter of whom he is extremely proud. His daughter is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Warton School and I am told she is set to begin a promising career. It would be a great loss to the citizens of Philadelphia if Judge DiClaudio were not permitted to remain as a jurist in this county. I humbly beseech the Board to take this character letter into consideration in the hopes that fairness will prevail. I am sure that Judge DiClaudio understands the gravamen of his actions and I respectfully suggest that moving

R-46

forward the judge will make every effort to comply with Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Responsibility as well as the Judicial Code of Conduct.

If you have any questions or would like to speak with me, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thanking you for your attention in this regard.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Tinari', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eugene P. Tinari

LAW OFFICES OF
ROBERT E. TRIMBLE, P.C.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

March 31st, 2021

Court of Judicial Discipline
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 5500
Harrisburg, PA 17106

Re: Honorable Scott DiClaudio, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia

Dear Sir or Madame:

Please accept this letter as both character and professional reference on behalf of the Honorable Scott DiClaudio, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia.

I have known Judge DiClaudio for nearly 20 years, and I credit His Honor as the single greatest professional influence in my career. I began working for Judge DiClaudio when he was an attorney focusing on criminal defense in the summer of 2005. I worked as a clerk in his office until my law school graduation in the Spring of 2007. After passing the bar that Fall, I began working with him full-time as an attorney and continued to do so until he ascended to the Common Pleas bench in January of 2016, at which time I became a solo practitioner.

Like Judge DiClaudio's practice, my practice is primarily focused on criminal defense. Over the course of my nearly 15-year career as a criminal defense attorney, I have represented hundreds of clients in dozens of counties in Pennsylvania at the Magisterial Justice and Common Pleas levels, and have represented dozens of clients in Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. I have also litigated federal matters in the Western District of Pennsylvania, the Western District of Virginia, and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Lastly, I have argued before the Pennsylvania Superior Court as well.

In short, I have appeared before a great many judges, and I can say without reservation that Judge Scott DiClaudio has always conducted himself in accordance with the highest standards of his profession. I feel it is important to make clear that I do not in general litigate matters before Judge DiClaudio, as our close personal relationship could give the appearance of impropriety. Consequently, Judge DiClaudio regularly recuses himself from any case of which I am counsel of record excepting those few cases where opposing counsel and I have an agreed upon resolution to a matter and an agreement on the record that Judge DiClaudio can dispose of the issue.

However, because I am in the JKSCCJ (Philadelphia's criminal justice center) on a daily basis, I am very familiar with Judge DiClaudio's upstanding reputation among the criminal bar.

TWO PENN CENTER • SUITE 900 • 15TH & JOHN F. KENNEDY BLVD. • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

PH: 267.475.8775 • FAX: 215.940.2701

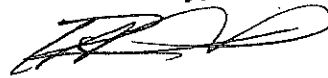
R-47

He is nearly universally regarded as a fair and even-handed judge who truly cares about the administration of justice and treats with the utmost respect all staff, litigants, and practitioners who come before him. When Judge DiClaudio was sitting as a SMART room judge, he would often have well over 100 cases on his daily list. I have always been very impressed with how Judge DiClaudio would take time in each and every case before him to understand the facts and arguments on all sides; give Commonwealth witnesses, defendants, and defense witnesses a fair opportunity to be heard; and to ultimately get to a just and fair resolution. This, to me, is the essence of what it means to be a good judge. Judge DiClaudio is a good judge.

I also consider Judge DiClaudio to be a close personal friend and mentor. Aside from my immediate family, I don't know that there is another person who has had more influence on my personal growth than Judge DiClaudio. Since we met in 2005, I cannot think of a single instance where I sought his counsel and he did not respond in a kind, thoughtful, sincere manner. Judge DiClaudio has encouraged me to become a better person and has showed me how through his example. Long before he was a Judge, Judge DiClaudio was taking time out of his hectic schedule to give back to his community. I remember he would take his daughter, Gabe, to volunteer with him at soup kitchens on a monthly basis, serving Philadelphia's homeless population. To this day, he regularly volunteers with MANNA, a non-profit here in Philadelphia that provides food and services to the homeless. He encourages his probationers to join him. These are the actions of a decent and kind person.

In my opinion, Judge DiClaudio's dedication to his profession and his community warrant leniency. The City of Philadelphia needs judges like Scott DiClaudio. I sincerely hope that you will reach out to me directly should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Trimble', written in a cursive style.

ROBERT TRIMBLE

Dear Members of the Judicial Conduct Board,

I am an Assistant Defender with the Defender Association of Philadelphia. I have been with the Defender Association of Philadelphia as an Assistant Defender for over twenty-five years. During my professional career I have represented thousands of clients in criminal trials. My litigation experience ranges from representation in simple misdemeanor judge trials to complex major felony jury trials. I have litigated eighty-seven complex major felony trials when I was assigned to the Defender Major Felony Unit.

After many years at the Defender Association, I was asked by Dennis Kelly then Deputy at the Defender if I would staff the pretrial courtroom. It was during this time that the courthouse was transitioning to a new zone system. Cases were assigned to courtrooms based on police districts.

Consequently, the pretrials rooms now were decentralized requiring additional staff to manage. I was initially assigned to represent those clients residing in the twenty-fifth district located in the lower northeast of Philadelphia.

I was then asked to staff another pretrial room. This courtroom handled several districts on different days of the week. I was assigned to handle all waive (minor felonies) and major felony cases from the twenty second district. These clients resided in the north section of the city.

I was assigned to this assignment for several years. It was in this assignment that I had the honor of working with Judge Diclaudio. I have worked for a very long time in the Philadelphia Criminal Justice System. I have worked with countless Judges and other legal professionals. There are many interesting and difficult personalities, so when a public defender gets to work with a hardworking and fair Judge it is truly a wonderful and productive experience.

Judge Diclaudio is a professional and an even-tempered Judge. He is extremely patient and fair. As a result of Judge Diclaudio's fairness in adjudicating cases, many cases resulted in guilty pleas before Judge Diclaudio.

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In addition, Judge Diclaudio encouraged clients to complete their community service with Manna. Manna is a program that is prepares and provides food for the homeless and the homebound. Judge Diclaudio went a step further and worked with the clients preparing food for Manna clientele. Judge Diclaudio invited courtroom staff and attorneys to join him volunteering at Manna. Several times I, along with other attorneys and courtroom staff volunteered, volunteered alongside Judge Diclaudio and our clients preparing food for Manna. In the many years working at the Defenders Association this was a truly great experience.

As a defender representing clients in the criminal justice system for over twenty-five years it is a rare occasion to appear before a judge that is professional, fair, and hardworking. Judge Diclaudio has all these qualities. Finally, as a Philadelphian, Judge Diclaudio serves the citizens of Philadelphia well. It has been my honor to have appeared before Judge Diclaudio.

I am hopeful that the you will consider my statement and reach a fair conclusion.

Sincerely,

Brunilda Vargas
Assistant Defender
March 3, 2021



THE LAW OFFICE OF
DAVID M. WALKER
LLC

March 22, 2021

Judicial Conduct Board
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500
P.O. Box 62525
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0901

Re: The Honorable Scott DiClaudio

Dear Members of the Judicial Conduct Board,

My name is David Walker, and it is my pleasure to write on behalf of the Honorable Scott DiClaudio. I have spent the last twenty years practicing as a criminal defense attorney in Philadelphia. I first met Judge DiClaudio when he was in private practice, working with one of the busiest defense attorneys in the city. Although I was a young assistant defender, Judge DiClaudio was never too busy to answer a question or stop and chat. Not only would Judge DiClaudio answer a question, I remember him frequently asking other lawyers, me included, about a case, a motion or point of law. I was impressed by his willingness to seek advice. Some private defense lawyers would never stoop to ask a young defender his or her opinion. This was not the case with Judge DiClaudio. If he thought that someone may have insight or knowledge that could help his client, Judge DiClaudio did not let his ego get in the way. He would simply ask the question.

Before joining the bench, Judge DiClaudio had built a successful criminal defense practice. Although he was a very good defense attorney, he has become an even better judge. His years as a defense attorney and prosecutor have given him a unique perspective. He wants everyone who enters his courtroom, from lawyers and police to victims and defendants to have the opportunity to be heard. He frequently speaks directly to victims, defendants and families, seeking their input when appropriate. He simply has a common touch that is rare for a judge.

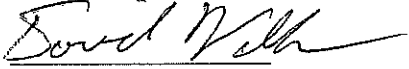
For the last five years, Judge DiClaudio has worked in what is known in Philadelphia as a "Smart Room." It is a pre-trial room that handles dozens of cases a day. He has worked tirelessly in the "Smart Room." He is intelligent, decisive and efficient. Although he has a huge caseload, he continues to recognize the humanity in the people that appear before him. Most importantly, he understands that his decisions have a great effect on people's lives.

I am not qualified to speak on the matter that has brought Judge DiClaudio before the Board, but I do know that he has served the people of Philadelphia passionately over the last five years. I also know that Judge DiClaudio enjoys his job immensely, and I suspect he regrets tremendously, doing anything that might put his position at risk. I am hopeful that the issue

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before the Board will be resolved in his favor, so he may continue the good work he is doing for Philadelphians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David M. Walker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

David M. Walker

Daniel Zachariah
313 Bowers Ln
Media, PA 19063

Re: The Honorable Scott DiClaudio, Character Letter

March 2nd, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Daniel Zachariah, and I am a JD candidate at Temple University's Beasley School of Law. I am writing this letter in support of Judge Scott DiClaudio. I have clerked with the Public Defender offices in Los Angeles, the state of Delaware, Montgomery County, and Philadelphia. I have also worked as intern for a law group dedicated to malpractice and criminal law.

Most importantly however, I began my path in law by clerking for Judge DiClaudio in my undergraduate years. I initially started by simply observing every hearing and trial until Judge DiClaudio sought to better my experience by having me involved in the process. Soon, I was taking notes on plea deals, trials, making and taking phone calls. My input was valued when discussing trials and sentencings, despite me being an undergraduate student. Judge DiClaudio never wasted a moment to teach me what the best characteristics in an attorney were supposed to be. He has taught me strategy, rationality, and compassion in the field of law.

The most essential attribute that Judge DiClaudio has taught me is impartiality. At every step of the case, he would ask my opinions, ask me to explain my rationale, and then ask me to explain what I believe every counterargument would be to my own. He did this intentionally, so that I would never ignore a different opinion, nor discount the defendant or complaining witness. Working with four different public defender offices and multiple private attorneys, I have had the opportunity to see dozens of different judges handling a variety of cases. I can say without any hesitation that Judge DiClaudio is one of the most equitable judges that I have seen on the bench. I have noticed that many judges have a reputation for tending to favor one side or another. However, no party is treated with partiality. He will *always* listen to every person that wishes to have their voice heard. I have personally seen him deliberate and contemplate the different arguments and people in the situation. This amount of empathy is what I see as unmatched across every courtroom I have seen.

I can confidently say that without Judge DiClaudio, I would not have pursued the field of law. Like many of my peers, at times I can lose motivation and sight of the endgame with law. Judge DiClaudio has completely prevented that from happening with me by keeping his doors open and allowing me to observe whenever I can, consistently teaching the same attributes that he taught years ago when I first clerked for him. I can only hope to carry the skillsets, compassion, and rationality that Judge DiClaudio has passed onto me into my professional life.

Thank you for considering the words I have written. Please feel free to contact me for anything I can offer in addition to this letter.

Sincerely,

Daniel Zachariah

R-50

**LAW OFFICE OF AARON BELL
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PHILADELPHIA, PA 19136**

**Phone (215) 609-4888
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www.aaronbelllaw.com
aaronbelllawfirm@gmail.com**

May 9, 2021

Judicial Conduct Board
Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500
P.O. Box 62525
Harrisburg, Pa 17120-0901

**RE: Recommendation for Judge Scott DiClaudio
No. 3 JD 19.**

To whom this may concern:

I am an attorney who practices criminal defense in Philadelphia. Judge DiClaudio is the ideal judge because he treats everyone with respect and makes fair, well-reasoned decisions to the best of his ability. Judge DiClaudio has provided many people with second chances and has restored faith in the judiciary for those who were predisposed to believe that the system was rigged against them. Judge DiClaudio is ethical, respectful, and represents the Judiciary well. The judge also gives back Philadelphia's community by speaking with youths and attending outreach events. The had judge even given a judicial internship to a close friend of mine, Frank Braxton, to show him how courts decide cases. Judge DiClaudio does not use his power to destroy lives for the sake of satisfying his ego and furthering a political agenda. The judge uses his power to impartially decide cases *based on the facts and the law*. Please keep this judge. We need more like him.

R-51

Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/Aaron Bell

Aaron Bell, Esq.

BERTO M. ELMORE

Licensed in PA



ATTORNEY AT LAW

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PHILADELPHIA, PA 19132

TEL: (215) 235-6834

FAX: (215) 235-4908

May 7, 2021

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Court of Judicial Discipline

IN RE: Judge Scott DiClaudio

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to request leniency for Judge Scott DiClaudio. I have known Judge DiClaudio for over 25 years. I have been practicing criminal law for over 30 years. When Scott DiClaudio first got elected as a judge myself a many of my colleagues were thinking that perhaps him being a judge was not going to be a good thing for the Philadelphia Bar because of his sometimes-chaotic personality.

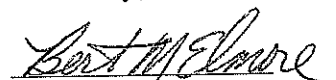
I must say, I was so wrong, and many of my colleagues were so wrong. Judge DiClaudio has surpassed all expectation of him being a judge and now has a reputation of being one of the best judges in the Criminal Justice Center. He starts on time and runs the courtroom in a very professional manner.

What makes Judge DiClaudio a great judge? He treats everyone with respect, both lawyers and defendants that come before him. Judge DiClaudio is fair to people that come before him. Most of the people that appear before him are young Black and Brown men that really appreciate him treating them with fairness and talking to them and not at them. He really cares what happens to people.

Every summer I host a group of teenagers from a community base organization name Stop the Violence from Indianapolis, Ind., here in Philadelphia and a visit to Judge DiClaudio courtroom is always on the agenda because of the way he runs his courtroom.

In, closing Judge DiClaudio is an asset to the courthouse, and to the Philadelphia community. I am hopeful that leniency is possible for Judge Scott DiClaudio.

Sincerely,


Berto M. Elmore, Esq.

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