

clerked for Judge Deborah T. Poritz of the New Jersey Supreme Court before beginning his legal career at White & Case LLP. As an associate, he focused on complex commercial litigation and on domestic and international arbitration matters.

Following his time in private practice, Mr. Sherriff has spent the past two decades at the U.S. Attorney's Office—USAO—for the same district to which he is nominated, where he has handled a wide range of civil and criminal matters. Since 2015, Mr. Sherriff has been the chief of the USAO's Fresno office, where he is responsible for overseeing Federal prosecutions brought in the southern half of the Eastern District of California.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. Sherriff "well qualified" to serve on the district court, and he has the strong support of Senators PADILLA and BUTLER.

Mr. Sherriff's deep ties to the California legal community, combined with his significant courtroom experience, make him an excellent candidate to serve on the Federal bench.

I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

#### VOTE ON SHERRIFF NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Sherriff nomination?

Ms. HASSAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO).

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 26 Ex.]

#### YEAS—54

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Butler	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Fetterman	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Graham	Padilla	Wyden

#### NAYS—45

Blackburn	Fischer	Mullin
Boozman	Grassley	Paul
Braun	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hoeven	Romney
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Rubio
Cornyn	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Lee	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lummis	Sullivan
Cruz	Marshall	
Daines	McConnell	
Ernst	Moran	

Thune	Tuberville	Wicker
Tillis	Vance	Young

#### NOT VOTING—1

Barrasso

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 311, Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Jack Reed, Mazie Hirono, Alex Padilla, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Raphael G. Warnock, Christopher A. Coons, Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 27 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Luján	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Graham	Reed	

#### NAYS—49

Blackburn	Capito	Cramer
Boozman	Cassidy	Crapo
Braun	Collins	Cruz
Britt	Cornyn	Daines
Budd	Cotton	Ernst

Fischer	Manchin	Schmitt
Graham	Marshall	Scott (FL)
Grassley	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Hagerty	Moran	Sullivan
Hawley	Mullin	Thune
Hoeven	Murkowski	Tillis
Hyde-Smith	Paul	Tuberville
Johnson	Ricketts	Vance
Kennedy	Risch	Wicker
Lankford	Romney	Young
Lee	Rounds	
Lummis	Rubio	

#### NOT VOTING—1

Barrasso

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m. today.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:28 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

##### NOMINATION OF KAROLINE MEHALCHICK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Karoline Mehalchick to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Judge Mehalchick received her B.S. from Pennsylvania State University and her J.D. from Tulane Law School before clerking for Judge Trish Corbett on the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas in Scranton, PA. She then entered private practice in Clarks Summit, PA, where she maintained a general civil and commercial litigation practice, representing both plaintiffs and defendants in all stages of litigation. During her time as a litigator, she tried 10 cases to verdict, including 6 jury trials. She also argued seven appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and served as co-counsel in one case before the Supreme Court of the United States.

In 2013, Judge Mehalchick was appointed as a U.S. magistrate judge on the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania in Scranton. She has served as chief magistrate judge since 2021. During her decade on the bench, she has handled a wide variety of both civil and criminal matters, and she has presided over 16 trials that have gone to verdict. She has issued more than 1,200 opinions and reports and recommendations and more than 1,000 criminal orders related to pretrial detention and release. In addition to her judicial service, Judge Mehalchick also presides over the Scranton Court-Assisted Re-Entry Program—CARE Court—and serves on the Judicial Conference Committee on Codes of Conduct.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Mehalchick as "qualified" to serve on the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and she is

strongly supported by both of her home State Senators and the Pennsylvania legal community. Her litigation background and her courtroom experience as both an advocate and as a magistrate judge ensure that she will be an asset to the district court.

I am proud to support her nomination, and I ask my colleagues to join me in my support.

#### VOTE ON MEHALCHICK NOMINATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Mehalchick nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 28 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Lujan	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

#### NAYS—49

Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Manchin	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	
Graham	Paul	

#### NOT VOTING—1

Barrasso

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 142, Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Charles E. Schumer, Thomas R. Carper, Alex Padilla, Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard J. Durbin, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Peter Welch, Catherine Cortez Masto, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, John W. Hickenlooper.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 29 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Lujan	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

#### NAYS—49

Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Manchin	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	
Graham	Paul	

#### NOT VOTING—1

Barrasso

(Ms. BALDWIN assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

#### IRAN

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, I rise here today in support of our closest and longest standing ally in the Middle East, Israel, and also to prevent American taxpayer dollars from supporting terrorism.

On October 7, Hamas broke the ceasefire with a horrific and barbaric attack on Israel. Hamas terrorists crossed the border. They killed unarmed citizens, raped and mutilated women, burned children, beheaded soldiers, and kidnapped innocent civilians as well. That horrific attack demonstrates the barbarity of this terrorist organization.

For those who call on a cease-fire for Israel to somehow sponsor this, I call on you to call on Hamas to surrender. Hamas must surrender. Israel cannot tolerate an organization on its border that is dedicated to destruction of its state. Hamas has said time and time again they will continue to attack Israel in this barbaric way. Hamas must be destroyed and the United States must support Israel. Israel will be doing the world a favor when Hamas is destroyed.

On that day, 1,200 Israelis were killed. It included 33 Americans. Hundreds of people were kidnapped, many of whom have not been returned. I have been posting about the hostages since this terrible event has happened. These folks are mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, children. These folks are real people, and they must be returned. That is why it is so important that Hamas surrender, return the hostages, and the State of Israel must continue to defend itself until that happens.

Now, we ought not support terrorism, especially not a brutal terroristic organization by the name of Hamas. We shouldn't undermine our foreign policy to support the State of Israel. And yet that is exactly what we are doing at this moment.

There is an organization called the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees in the Near East, also called UNRWA. Last Friday, there was a report that a dozen UNRWA employees participated in the October 7 attack, six directly in the attack killing Israelis. A couple were responsible for logistics, procuring weapons. More were involved in kidnappings. Still more were traced to the sites where Israelis had been killed.

The Wall Street Journal reports that perhaps 10 percent of UNRWA employees, some 1,200 people, may have links to Hamas or even the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which considers Hamas too moderate. Think of how crazy that is.

UNRWA has been described as, essentially, a branch of Hamas. But, by the way, this is not a news flash that this