

No. \_\_\_\_\_

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**In The  
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES**

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**SUSAN MELISSA NICKAS,  
*Petitioner,***

**v.**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
*Respondent.***

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**On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the  
United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit**

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**Motion for Leave to Proceed In Forma Pauperis**

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ALEXANDRIA J. LAPPAS, ESQ.  
Interim Federal Public Defender

JASON F. ULLMAN, ESQ.\*  
Assistant Federal Public Defender

Middle District of Pennsylvania  
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*Counsel for Applicant-Petitioner*

\* Counsel of Record

In accordance with Rule 39.1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of the United States, Petitioner Susan Nickas, requests leave to file the enclosed Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit without prepayment of costs and to proceed *in forma pauperis* based upon an appointment under the Criminal Justice Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A(d)(6). Pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act, the Federal Public Defender Office was appointed to represent the Petitioner in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. A copy of the February 24, 2023 Order appointing the Federal Public Defender Office is attached.

Dated: March 26, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

ALEXANDRIA J. LAPPAS, ESQ.  
Interim Federal Public Defender

*/s/ Jason F. Ullman*  
JASON F. ULLMAN, ESQ.\*  
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\* Counsel of Record

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT**

No. 23-1316

USA v. Susan Nickas

(U.S. District Court No.: 3-21-cr-00143-002)

**ORDER**

It appearing that Susan Melissa Nickas having satisfied the Court that he/she is financially unable to obtain representation by counsel, it is

**O R D E R E D** that the Federal Public Defender Organization for the Middle District of Pennsylvania is hereby appointed pursuant to Title 18 U.S.C. Section 3006A(a) to represent Susan Melissa Nickas in the above-captioned matter. This appointment will remain in effect until termination of this case or substitute counsel is appointed.

For the Court,

s/ Patricia S. Dodszuweit  
Clerk

Dated: February 24, 2023  
LMR/cc: Michelle L. Olshefski, Esq.  
Elliot A. Smith, Esq.