

Media Release

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ATTORNEY MELINDA PHELPS TO CHAIR CANDARAS SENATE CAMPAIGN

Well-Known Community Leader Brings Political Experience to Effort

SPRINGFIELD MA. The **Candaras for Senate Committee** today announced that Attorney Melinda Phelps will serve as the Chair of the Committee. Representative Gale Candaras is a candidate for the State Senate in the First Hampden and Hampshire District. The Senate seat is currently held by Brian Lees, who is retiring.

A civil litigator in practice, Attorney Phelps is a partner with the Springfield law firm of Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinis, LLP. She is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College and received her law degree from Western New England College.

Attorney Phelps has extensive experience in the political arena as well, including serving as Campaign Manager for United States Representative Richard E. Neal. Attorney Phelps serves on the boards of a number of community, political, social service and cultural organizations.

In accepting the chairmanship, Attorney Phelps, a partner at Bulkley, Richardson, and Gelinis, LLP, in Springfield, stated: "Representative Candaras has already demonstrated her leadership capacity. She is a well thought of member of the House of Representatives, highly regarded by Democrats, Republicans and Independents because she is an effective legislator. She is diligent in evaluating issues and thoughtfully reaches decisions in the best interests of her constituents."

Announcing Attorney Phelps' selection as Campaign Chair, Representative Candaras said: "We selected a knowledgeable and experienced campaign chair who is also an attorney so we can be sure our senate campaign maintains the standards and sets the tone our constituents have come to expect from us. Melinda is highly skilled and highly respected and we are delighted she will head our campaign organization."

"Gale is one of the hardest working elected officials I know," Attorney Phelps observed. "She leaves no stone unturned in her quest for information on issues important to her constituents. She is a tough negotiator, fighting for legislation, funds and projects for her district. I've enjoyed working with Gale over the years; her enthusiasm for dedicated public service is infectious. The skills she has demonstrated as a representative will provide her with a strong foundation as a senator because she understands the politics of the State House, and she certainly understands us in western Massachusetts."

The Candaras Committee will announce soon the names of other individuals from throughout the Senate District who have joined the campaign.