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August 2, 2022

Via Email

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Endorsement of the Hon. Mia Roberts Perez, Nominee for
District Judge on the United States District Court for the
Eastern District of Pennsylvania**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write on behalf of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania (“APABA-PA”) to express our support for the confirmation of the Honorable Mia Roberts Perez to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

APABA-PA, an affiliate of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (“NAPABA”), is a non-profit organization founded in 1984 to advance the interests of Asian Pacific American (“APA”) attorneys and law students across the Commonwealth and to promote justice, equity, and legal access, particularly for all APA communities. In conjunction with NAPABA, APABA-PA monitors federal judicial appointments, promotes diversity on the bench, raises general awareness of the other representation of APAs in the judiciary, and works to recommend qualified APA judicial candidates. APABA-PA is committed to ensuring that the judiciary is strengthened by and reflects the diversity of this nation.

Judge Mia Roberts Perez has served on the First Judicial District of the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas since 2016, when she became one of the youngest judges in the history of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Prior to becoming a Court of Common Pleas Judge, Judge Perez led her own firm, Perez Law, specializing in criminal defense and family law. Before opening her own practice, Judge Perez worked in the municipal law department at a mid-size firm and served as an Assistant Defender at the Defender Association of Philadelphia. During her years at the Defender Association and owning her own practice, Perez Law, her practice was

entirely in litigation and she appeared in courts frequently. This experience prepared her to take the bench six years ago.

Since her elevation to the bench in 2016, Judge Perez has presided over more than 3,000 cases in the criminal and civil divisions. She has developed a reputation for being a fair, intelligent, even-keeled, and practical jurist. In addition to her work in the courtroom, Judge Perez has served on Pennsylvania's Judicial Conduct Board, a position to which she was appointed by Governor Tom Wolf, where she ensures that the quality of the judiciary remains at the elevated level we all deserve. Finally, Judge Perez has contributed to training the next generation of lawyers as a trial advocacy professor and trial team coach at Temple Law School. She has mentored many female law students of color, including myself, and encouraged them to become litigators and trial attorneys. Throughout her career and in her interactions with others, she has demonstrated humility, a strong work ethic, intelligence, and a commitment to justice. There is no question that she would be an asset to the bench of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

If confirmed, Judge Perez would be the first District Court Judge of APA heritage in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The scarcity of APA jurists on the bench is in stark contrast to the APA population. In the counties that make up the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, nearly 6% of the population identifies as Asian alone or Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone. This number does not even include the growing population of individuals who identify as multiracial with APA heritage. Furthermore, the APA legal community is the fastest growing nationwide. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 5.6% of legal professionals are APA¹. It is long past time for there to be a judge of APA descent on the District Court bench in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

APABA-PA fully supports Judge Perez's confirmation to serve as District Judge on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at president@apaba-pa.org or 215-981-3723.

Yours Truly,



Chi-Ser Tran
President, APABA-PA

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat11.htm>.