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The  
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August 1, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chair  
Committee of the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

To The Honorable Richard Durbin:

The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, Inc. was founded in 1950 to address the needs of African-American attorneys in Philadelphia. Since then, we have been a committed catalyst for change and a voice of advocacy for correcting historical injustices in this City. We have played an intricate role in elevating Black voices and addressing the needs of our community.

The American judicial system has a history littered with the negation of equality and noble attempts of correction thereafter. The road for Black law students, practitioners, judges, and legal scholars is filled with obstacles presented as a result of the systemic barriers designed throughout history to prevent and discourage our inclusion in the legal profession. Organizations such as the Barristers' Association located in every major city demonstrate the existence of excellent Black attorneys in every area of practice. Yet, our courts are a poor reflection of diversity in practice. In recent years, conversations of equality and inclusion have been on the forefront of every industry. While we stand in this very moment of history, more definitive steps must be taken to put words to action and demand that representation on the bench reflect reality.

The Barristers' Association has stood in support of multiple recent judicial nominees put forward by President Biden. We continue to support the diversification of our judicial system so that those charged with administering justice reflect the diverse nature of this nation. In that, the Barristers' Association proudly supports the nomination of the Honorable Mia Roberts Perez of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Judge Perez's multifaceted career began with the Defenders' Association of Philadelphia. From there, Judge Perez practiced in many areas and opened a solo practice specializing in criminal defense and family law. In 2016, Judge Perez was elected to the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas where she has gained the respect of her peers, as well as those who have appeared before her. She has served in various capacities of leadership within the Court, including being a co-chair of the First Judicial District's Education Committee. Judge Perez has also lent her passion for practice to the classroom as an adjunct professor at Temple University's James E. Beasley School of Law. Judge Perez's background, commitment to justice, stellar trial career, and practice of mentoring young attorneys makes her an excellent addition to our Federal Court.

The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, Inc. proudly supports the nomination of The Honorable Mia Roberts Perez. Her confirmation will serve as a continued commitment to diversity within the Court, as well as recognition of her stellar career.

Respectfully,

Adara L. Combs, Esq.

President

Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, Inc.