

September 9, 2022

Ellyn H. Lazar
7 Momin Drive
Millbury, MA 01527

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

It is with great pleasure that I write to support the appointment of Judge Margaret Guzman as a United States District Court Judge for the District of Massachusetts. I first heard of then-Attorney Guzman more than 20 years ago, soon after I joined the Appeals Unit of the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, of which I am currently the Chief. At that time, she had a reputation as one of the most talented and hard-working attorneys in Worcester County, and I soon came to see for myself that it was well deserved. Equally important, as zealous and effective as Judge Guzman was as a defense attorney, she was always honest with and cordial to the prosecutors on the other side of the cases she was defending. Although people might have complained about being bested by Attorney Guzman's legal prowess in the courtroom, I do not recall ever hearing a complaint about her candor with either the courts or other attorneys. She worked tirelessly to do the best she could do with the facts and the law as they stood, but never acted underhandedly to gain an advantage.

After Judge Guzman was appointed to the bench, I came to know her better while I was litigating a series of post-conviction motions filed by a defendant previously represented by Judge Guzman. In the course of those proceedings, Judge Guzman has made herself available to both sides and provided affidavits to both parties. Her conduct has made clear that her priority is providing the most complete and necessary information to allow another judge to fully review the matter and reach the correct decision, rather than any personal stake in the outcome of the case.

I believe that Judge Guzman would bring to the federal bench the same work ethic, legal acumen and values that she has shown as both an attorney and a state court judge, and that she

would be a tremendous asset to the United States District Court. In short, I wholeheartedly recommend her for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ellyn H. Lazar
Ellyn H. Lazar