

April 10, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

Re: Nomination of Jeannette Vargas to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

Dear Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

We respectfully submit this letter in enthusiastic support of the nomination of Jeannette Vargas to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. We are all former Assistant United States Attorneys who served with Ms. Vargas in the Office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. Among us are those who worked with her, tried civil and criminal cases with her, argued appeals with her, supervised her, and were supervised by her. We are unanimous in our unqualified support. Ms. Vargas is a brilliant lawyer with a sweeping range of legal experience. She is humble and practical, and we have the highest regard for her integrity. She would be a superb judge.

Ms. Vargas has astoundingly broad and deep legal experience. As an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York for more than two decades, she has regularly appeared not only in United States District Court, but also in the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. She has investigated and prosecuted both civil and criminal matters. She has defended matters on behalf of the United States and its various departments, agencies, and officers. She has handled novel constitutional questions, significant civil rights prosecutions, massive False Claims Act investigations, sensitive national security matters, complex bankruptcies, and intricate tax disputes, as well as the day-to-day litigation faced by federal agencies and officers. We submit that few nominees come before this Committee with such deep and broad federal legal experience.

Across all this work, Ms. Vargas has been a consistently outstanding lawyer with immaculately measured judgment. She has an incredible command of information. She is a careful listener and an excellent judge of credibility. She quickly reduces complex legal issues to their core. She can explain those issues simply, both in writing and in speaking. And, in an Office that has long prioritized judgment alongside intellect and skill, Ms. Vargas's judgment has

stood out. Her advice and counsel have regularly been sought out by her peers, as well as the Office's leadership and government agencies. These traits would serve the public well.

Ms. Vargas has also consistently dedicated herself to the rule of law. She has served as an Assistant United States Attorney through four Presidents (two Republicans and two Democrats), eight Attorneys General (five appointed by Republicans and three by Democrats), and nine United States Attorneys (seven during Republican administrations and two during Democratic ones). Throughout that time, she has led high-profile cases, including politically sensitive matters, without an ounce of political bias. We say that as individuals with political views across the political spectrum. In the best traditions of the Office, Ms. Vargas has served without fear or favor, dedicated to doing the right thing in the right way for the right reasons. We are confident that she would bring the same approach to the federal bench, inspiring faith in the integrity and fairness of the federal judiciary.

Finally, Ms. Vargas has remained grounded and humble despite her masterful legal work, her ground-breaking cases, and her many successes. Ms. Vargas's work is of nationwide significance, but she does not take herself too seriously. She is unpretentious and down-to-earth. She has an abiding sense of humor, and her hearty laughter is infectious. These qualities, coupled with her brilliance, work ethic, and unquestionable integrity, make for a perfect judicial demeanor.

We urge her swift confirmation.

Sincerely,

Allison Penn	Craig A. Stewart	Jaimie L. Nawaday
Amanda F. Parsels	Cristy Irvin Phillips	James Nicholas Boeving
Andrew M. McNeela	Daniel P. Filor	Jessica Jean Hu
Andrew W. Schilling	Daniel L. Stein	John M. McEnany
Arastu Kabeer Chaudhury	David N. Kelley	Joon H. Kim
Arlo Devlin-Brown	Edward Scarvalone	Kan M. Nawaday
Audrey Strauss	Elizabeth Wolstein	Kathleen Zebrowski
Bertrand Madsen	Ellen London	Katherine R. Goldstein
Brian Marc Feldman	Emily E. Daughtry	Kathy S. Marks
Caleb Hayes-Deats	Emily Reisbaum	Lauren Almquist Lively
Carina H. Schoenberger	Heidi A. Wendel	Li Yu
Christopher B. Harwood	Ilan Graff	Lisa Zornberg

Louis A. Pellegrino

Martin S. Bell

Megan L. Brackney

Michael Kim Krouse

Natalie N. Kuehler

Natasha W. Teleanu

Neil S. Binder

Nicole Gueron

Patricia L. Buchanan

Rebecca C. Martin

Rebecca R. Friedman

Richard B. Zabel

Robert L. Boone

Russell M. Yankwitt

Sara L. Shudofsky

Sarah E. Light

Serrin Turner

Stephen Cha-Kim

Susan C. Branagan

Susan D. Baird

Talia Kraemer

Wendy H. Schwartz

Wendy Huang Waszmer