



May 23, 2023

Honorable John Cornyn

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Ernest Gonzalez for U.S. District Judge

Southern District of Texas (Laredo) & Western District of Texas (Del Rio)

Dear Senator Cornyn:

The Mexican American Bar Association of Texas (MABATx) is a statewide organization composed of attorneys committed to the advancement of Latinos in the legal profession and the empowerment of the Latino community through service and advocacy. In furtherance of goals, MABATx supports the appointment of qualified Hispanics to the U.S. Judiciary. MABATx has chapters in the major urban centers of Texas including Dallas, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, El Paso, and Ft. Worth.

MABATx is proud to endorse the appointment of Ernest Gonzalez to serve as U.S. District Judge for either the Southern District of Texas in Laredo, Texas or the Western District of Texas in Del Rio, Texas. MABATx believes Mr. Gonzalez is uniquely qualified to serve as a U.S. District Judge at either location based on his background, solid impressive credentials and his commitment and perseverance to protect the citizens of the United States and to hold those individuals who threaten public safety and violate United State laws accountable.

Mr. Gonzalez possesses the necessary credentials, federal court admissions, relevant court & trial experience, and criminal law expertise to serve as U.S. District Judge in a U.S. District Court. Mr. Gonzalez has the temperament and ability to adjudicate the high-volume, criminal & narcotics focused proceedings in the district courts assigned to handle these cases along the U.S. / Mexico border.

As his resume indicates, Mr. Gonzalez has served as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas in Plano, Texas from January 2004 to the present. In recognition of his talent, he was appointed lead counsel for the Eastern District of Texas Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) and supervised six of the Assistant U. S. Attorneys assigned there. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, he prosecuted domestic and international organized crime drug cases, maintaining one of the most robust international drug prosecution portfolios in the nation. Because the Eastern District also has an international component, he was involved in the prosecution and extradition of wrongdoers for violations of United States and international law primarily from Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala, and Panama.

As evident from responses to the FJEC Questionnaire, Mr. Gonzalez has successfully prosecuted over four hundred jury trials, some involving indictments with multiple defendants and in the complex cases, the introduction of large amounts of physical and testimonial evidence. A review of the testimonials from some of the cases illustrates a keen understanding of the nature of the organizations and networks involved in these illegal commercial enterprises and illustrates the depth of investigation undertaken which involved collaboration with international law partners to successfully prosecute.

Mr. Gonzalez successful career can only be attributed to resoluteness and determination to overcome the hardships and obstacles in his life. He is bi-lingual, a first generation American, a family man brought up in the values of South Texas to work hard with integrity, with respect for others and the law. Having also traveled extensively to Central and South America, he is totally bi-cultural and understanding of the cultural nuances inherent in the border region experience. His life experience together with federal and legal experience make him a formidable prosecutor and lead counsel for the U.S. Government.

The Mexican American Bar Association of Texas is committed to the appointment of qualified , Hispanic attorneys to the nation's judiciary. Ernest Gonzalez has the relevant experience, credentials and expertise to serve as a federal judge in a border region U.S. District Court. Further, as a U.S prosecutor, Mr. Gonzalez has adhered to the highest standard for honesty and ethics in the pursuit of justice. Given today's border situation, Mr. Gonzalez' demonstrated dedication to the preservation and protection of U.S. law and public safety, make him worthy of your favorable consideration for appointment.

Thank you, Senator.

Sincerely,

Jana Ortega, President

