

December 5, 2022

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

The Honorable Chuck E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Ramon E. Reyes, Jr. to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are the former law clerks for Ramon E. Reyes, Jr., U.S. Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn. We write to enthusiastically support his confirmation as a judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

We offer our unique perspective of having worked with Judge Reyes in his capacity as a federal magistrate judge. Some of us have also had the privilege of being his students at Brooklyn Law School. All of us have learned from him as a fellow human. Judge Reyes' personal and professional background, commitment to justice, high intellect, and exceptional work ethic make him an outstanding choice as a United States District Judge.

Judge Reyes has stellar professional qualifications. His exemplary career began at the New York City Council as a legislative attorney. After clerking for the Honorable David Trager at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, he practiced litigation at O'Melveny & Myers LLP before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. After eight years of service as an Assistant U.S. Attorney—and his leadership as a Deputy Chief of Civil Appeals—Judge Reyes began his current position as U.S. Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, where he serves today. We saw how litigants and colleagues benefited from his broad professional experience. Judge Reyes' reputation as a fair and decisive jurist is well deserved.

Judge Reyes' distinguished career is only one part of what makes him qualified to serve as a District Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. He is an outstanding jurist. We each witnessed firsthand Judge Reyes' sharp intellect, analytical skills, and resolute commitment to impartially applying the law. Judge Reyes meticulously prepares for

each hearing before he takes the bench. Before hearing any argument on an issue, Judge Reyes works tirelessly to understand both the particular facts of the case before him and the nuances of the law that apply to each issue on which he will render a decision. He approaches each case with an open mind, listens intently to the evidence and argument presented by each side, and faithfully applies the applicable rules, statutes, and precedent. Judge Reyes works tirelessly to resolve matters before him, regardless of what that answer may be or the number of drafts needed to reach it. He is committed to equity and justice. His meticulously written and well-reasoned opinions reflect his steady and careful approach to every case.

Upon consent of the parties, Judge Reyes has presided over many bench trials and jury trials. The number of bench trials opted for by the parties is a testament to his fairness, consistency, impartiality, and skill as a jurist.

Judge Reyes taught us to be open-minded, rigorous, and practical as new lawyers. We watched him earn the trust of individuals in his courtroom, particularly when litigants were involved in sensitive or difficult matters. We also saw Judge Reyes earn the respect of his courthouse colleagues, from facilities personnel to senior judges. Judge Reyes' mentorship was critical to shaping each of us. We now have leadership roles—across all areas of legal practice and in our personal lives—and we are lucky to have had a role model and friend in Judge Reyes.

It is important to note that Judge Reyes will bring critical diversity to the federal judiciary. If confirmed, Judge Reyes would be only the second Hispanic man to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Judge Reyes' confirmation will contribute to a judiciary that looks more like the public it serves. His confirmation will strengthen the institutional legitimacy of the federal judiciary.

We have had unparalleled access to Judge Reyes' judicial decision-making process and have come to know him off the bench as well. We support his nomination without hesitation. We can attest that his integrity, talent, and fairness will make him an asset to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Sincerely,

Alexis N. Stevens, Esq.

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