

Hon. John J. Conte
29 Elnora Drive
Worcester, MA 01606

September 9, 2022

Dick Durbin, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Honorable Margaret R. Guzman

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing this letter in support of the nomination of Judge Margaret R. Guzman (“Judge Guzman”) to be the next Judge of the United States District Court in Worcester, Massachusetts.

By way of background, I served as the elected District Attorney for the Middle District (Worcester County) for the period from 1976 until my retirement in 2007. The Middle District is comprised of 59 cities and towns in central Massachusetts and has a population of about 800,000 people. Prior to that, I served as a State Senator from 1962 until 1976, including as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

I first came to know Judge Guzman in the mid-1990s when she was serving as a public defender and later as an attorney in private practice. Even during that approximate 10-year period, when she was a younger lawyer, she was a lawyer’s lawyer. She knew the law, was prepared, professional, and very intelligent, and displayed a calm demeanor beyond her years. While she zealously and effectively represented her clients, she did not make personal attacks and you could trust her word. Moreover, her trial skills were top notch.

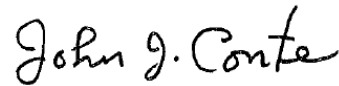
Due to my retirement, I did not get to see Judge Guzman in action on the bench as a state district court judge, but over the years I have kept in touch with many of my former Assistant District Attorneys (approximately 25 of whom have matriculated to the bench in the Commonwealth) and other court officials who have praised Judge Guzman’s performance on the bench where she appears to be performing at an outstanding level as she did as a public defender and private attorney. Moreover, I am certain she has gained valuable insight and experience

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from her time on the state court bench, and this experience, coupled with her life experiences, deep community involvement, and diligence, persuade me that she will fairly and impartially find the facts and apply the law, with a sincere and abiding respect for the law, process and the people who come before her in the United States District Court. As such, I strongly recommend Margaret Guzman for this position at this time in our community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Conte". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John J. Conte

JJC/