

September 4th, 2022

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

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The undersigned have served as assistant district attorneys in the county of Middlesex, Massachusetts, and have had the privilege of appearing in front of Judge Margaret Guzman in Massachusetts District Court. We are in unanimous support of her appointment as a United States District Court Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Together, the four of us have done countless bail arguments, evidentiary motions, and trials in front of Judge Guzman. Above all, we have found that Judge Guzman is a thoughtful and fair judge. She treats all parties with respect, and provides an opportunity for everyone to be heard. Most importantly, Judge Guzman is confident in her decisions. She will often provide a thorough recitation of the facts, mixed with case and statutory law orally on the record, making sure all parties, especially non-attorneys, are able to understand and accept her rulings.

As a district court judge, Judge Guzman is also tasked with managing hundreds of cases a year. All of us have spent time in the Ayer District Court, in which Judge Guzman presided over, and have conferenced thousands of cases in front of her. Judge Guzman's decades of trial court experience is especially evident here, as she balances the needs of an over-burdened criminal justice system, the rights of defendants, and the realities of life. She is understanding when parties request further dates and helps mediate disagreements among attorneys, while also holding all parties accountable to fulfill their role in the criminal justice system.

Further, we have all witnessed the immense respect and dignity she gives to everyone in the courthouse. From clerks and court officers, to probation officers, court interpreters, and any other professional courthouse employee, Judge Guzman recognizes the importance of a healthy courthouse ecosystem. Judge Guzman's proverbial door is always open. We have often gone to her chambers to ask for advice and feedback on our performances as young prosecutors, or discuss interesting cases or legal issues over lunch. It is also not uncommon to find a tray of baked goods outside our office on a Monday morning.

We are sorry to see Judge Guzman go from the Massachusetts Trial Court, but consider ourselves lucky to have spent such important years of our careers with her. We are honored to

submit this letter in support of her nomination to the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Acritelli
Benjamin Haspel
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