

Hispanic Affairs Project



**Mesa County
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September 21, 2022

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

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Gordon P. Gallagher, Judicial Nominee to the United States District Court for the District of Colorado

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

It is with high regard that we write to endorse the Honorable Judge Gordon P. Gallagher for the District Judge position for the District of Colorado.

As representatives of the Hispanic Affairs Project and Mesa County Libraries Adult Learning Center, we and members of our organizations have observed Judge Gallagher preside over numerous naturalization ceremonies over the course of the past decade. The Hispanic Affairs Project and Adult Learning Center, both of which provide services for the immigrant communities on Colorado's Western Slope, work to promote positive pathways for immigrants to integrate into their local communities. As such, Judge Gallagher's focus on immigration, citizenship, and diversity has resonated with our missions and the clients we serve, several of whom have performed their oath to naturalization under Judge Gallagher's guidance.

The COVID-19 pandemic created uncertainty throughout the United States and caused disruption to naturalization processes during the critical time leading up to a United States presidential election. In the state of Colorado, Judge Gallagher remained committed to developing opportunities for immigrants to become naturalized and obtain the voting rights for which they were eligible. He advocated for ceremonies to be held to naturalize new citizens in locations that met COVID-19 regulations, including performing outdoor ceremonies and, in one case, naturalizing an individual high school staff member in the presence of her family and friends. Throughout his tenure as United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Colorado, Judge Gallagher's focus has been on each individual and making sure that anyone eligible to vote could be sworn in and receive the opportunity to cast their ballot.

Following each naturalization ceremony, Judge Gallagher takes a moment to challenge the nation's newest citizens. He asks them to lend their voices, their ideas, and their time to better their communities. In doing so, Judge Gallagher demonstrates a commitment to the principle that diversity makes our community, our county, our state, and our country, stronger. As representatives of

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organizations that have worked with Judge Gallagher and been witness to his commitment to diversity and inclusion as Magistrate Judge over the past nine years, we believe the values Judge Gallagher stands for make him the best candidate for the District Judge position for the District of Colorado. We hope the impact he has had on our community can one day be felt by the nation at-large.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Ricardo Perez
Executive Director
Hispanic Affairs Project

Emily McConnell
Head of Adult Learning
Mesa County Libraries