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Chairman Dick Durbin
Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: *Margaret Strickland*
Letter of Recommendation
U.S. District Judge, District of New Mexico

Dear Chairman Durbin:

I have been an attorney in Las Cruces for the past 22 years. I have represented many officers over the years, and I have also been contracted by police unions for over 15 years to represent law enforcement involved in work related shootings- which is very controversial topic in society. In fact, I have represented several officers that Margaret has brought suit against.

I have known Margaret Strickland since 2006 when she started working at the state public defender's office in Las Cruces. I have continued to interact with Margaret over the last 15 years, and have seen her mature into a seasoned professional and ethical advocate. Margaret would be a positive addition to the District of New Mexico.

Over the past 10 years I dealt with Margaret on several cases and have seen her argue in front of judges in both state and federal court too many times to count. She has the ability to understand there are two sides to every situation, all the while zealously presenting her client's position and argument.

There are only a handful of attorneys in Las Cruces that I refer to prospective clients, and a smaller list that I would ask to represent a family member. Margaret is on both lists. I also respect her personally as much as I do professionally.

Margaret has every single attribute I would want in a judge- experience in all aspects of the judicial system, even temperament, trial experience, intelligence, and fairness. The United States District of New Mexico would be well-served with Margaret on the bench.

Thank you,


Jess Lilley