



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DISTRICT COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
AYER DIVISION
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The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

September 9, 2022

Re: Nomination of Justice Margaret Guzman to the U.S. District Court for Massachusetts

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

I am writing to strongly support the nomination of Justice Margaret Guzman to the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, and to urge her confirmation to the Court.

I have been an Associate Justice of the District Court in Massachusetts since March of 2018. Throughout my judicial career, Judge Guzman has been the Presiding Justice of Ayer District Court, and a wonderful mentor and colleague. She builds morale and brings unity to the court. She regularly checks in with the Assistant District Attorneys and the local defense bar, to ensure the court is running smoothly.

Justice Guzman, guided by her life experience, common sense and legal knowledge, sets the tone for justice and fairness in the community. Citizens of the Commonwealth have written unsolicited letters to this effect. An individual who identified herself as a single mother and a nurse, wrote:

“I came into Court upset about having to miss hours of work, because being head of household independently is a difficult task...while waiting, I’ve witnessed the way in which you uphold citizens’ rights. You show empathy when warranted, yet take into consideration the character of [an] individual’s past... I witnessed you listen to the

plea of parents that want to help their son come off the evil drug heroin...[I] want to personally THANK YOU for all that you do to make this country/community a better place. This world needs more people like you.”

A longtime victim witness advocate in the Middlesex District Attorney’s office wrote:

“I just wanted to let you know how truly blessed I feel to have had you as our presiding Judge. While I have always respected the Judges that have come through Ayer, there is something different, better about you...You brought us all closer and made Ayer District Court more like a family...Coming from a very blue family, I also appreciate how you treat the police officers...When you have a not guilty verdict, but comment on how you credit the officer and there was [probable cause], they hear you and they appreciate that. My daughter is a huge Spiderman fan so I can’t help but to think of the quote, ‘with great power comes great responsibility.’ I have found you to be a fair, kind [judge with] a little bit of sense of humor. Thank you for being my superhero.”

A defendant whom Justice Guzman sentenced to probation rather than incarceration, wrote:

“Not a day has gone by since that I haven’t thought of the crossroads I faced, the potentially deadly and destructive alternative, and the one judge who believed in me enough to give me another chance...I will always remember you with gratitude and as a model of character. Your decision that day saved my life.”

Justice Guzman’s service to the community goes even beyond the courtroom. During the pandemic in November 2020, she assisted motorists in peril on the highway. The family expressed their gratitude:

“We are writing to thank you for the concern and care you showed our daughter and grandchildren last night when you signaled them to pull over on Route 190 South due to the potentially lethal condition of their automobile. We believe your actions may have saved them from certain harm, and possibly a fate far worse. We further very much appreciate your desire to help by checking on their condition once they stopped, as well as your kindness to bring them to a restaurant so the kids would be safe, warm and have an opportunity to eat...You have reinforced our faith in the kindness and the generosity of our fellow man.”

Justice Guzman is an exemplar for others, including myself, to aspire to. I believe she would be an excellent Justice for the Federal Court. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Most sincerely,

Tejal Mehta

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Acting Presiding Justice, Ayer District Court

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