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

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

Re: Nomination of David Herrera Urias to the U.S. District Court for New Mexico

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

I write in support of the nomination of David Herrera Urias to serve as a Judge on the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico. I respectfully urge the Committee and full Senate to promptly review and confirm his nomination.

I am an attorney in private practice in New Mexico. I have been practicing law for over 30 years. Prior to my work as a private practitioner, I was a state prosecutor for over 16 years for the Bernalillo County District Attorney's Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico. During that time, I also worked as an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico District Attorney Clinical program wherein I trained third year law students to prosecute criminal cases.

Mr. Urias was one of my students in the New Mexico District Attorney Clinic. He was, without question, one of my most outstanding students. He is smart and has a keen intellect for the law. I supervised Mr. Urias in the prosecution of crimes in the Second Judicial District Court. Mr. Urias served as first chair in several bench and jury trial prosecutions, as I supervised him as his second chair attorney. Even then, he was hard working and very professional. He stood out amongst his peers as having integrity beyond reproach.

In addition to his skills in the prosecution of cases, I feel that it is important to comment on his treatment of victims, witnesses, defendants and law enforcement which was consistent with a high level of respect and professionalism. He has an ability to express empathy and compassion. He is kind and genuine. I specifically recall his ability to put all participants at ease and install a feeling of confidence in his legal skills.

More recently, Mr. Urias and I have worked as co-counsel in two civil matters. I found him to have the same level of temperament, calm demeanor and rational common-sense thinking as he did many years ago as a young prosecutor. That calm and level demeanor not only makes him a pleasure to work with, but those are the qualities I want in a member of the judiciary. He is well suited to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico. I am proud to support him. He will make a very welcome addition to the existing bench and will serve our state and our community well.

As a former member of the New Mexico State Senate, serving at the nomination of the Republican party, I know partisan politics as well as anyone. But I also know the courtroom and the justice system. More important than the letter indicating party affiliation behind one's name is the character and intellect of the person. Therefore I fully and without hesitation support the nomination of Mr. Urias, a man of strong character and solid judgement to the United States Judiciary.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Torraco

Attorney and Former New Mexico State Senator (R)