

September 12, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Charles Grassley Ranking  
Member, Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Araceli Martinez-Olguin to the U.S. District Court,  
Northern District of California

Dear Chairman Durbin and Senator Grassley:

I write to enthusiastically support the nomination of Araceli Martinez-Olguin for appointment to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

I first met Araceli some twenty years ago when she was one of about 15 students whom I interviewed (out of about 50 applicants) for a position in my chambers as a summer law clerk. Although I no longer remember her transcript grades, I know it was my practice—with very few exceptions—to have my law clerks schedule interviews of only the top applicants. During the interview, we discussed her work as a teacher, her decision to pursue a law degree, her career goals, and her experiences at the law school. At the end of our interview I did something that was very much out of the ordinary for me: I offered her the position then and there, without consulting my law clerks and without calling her references.

During the summer she worked for me, Araceli demonstrated an acute legal mind, a thoroughly balanced perspective, and a truly outstanding work ethic. She always strove for the legally correct and just answer, and when an advocate's brief was deficient, she felt compelled to take the initiative to fully research the issue herself to make certain she was fully informed and, as importantly, that the issue be decided on its merits.

I have kept in rather close touch with Araceli over the years since her summer with my office, and she has consistently brought these same qualities to her practice of law. She still calls to discuss tough legal issues and to get deeper insights into subtle issues. Her desire to achieve justice still burns as brightly and deeply as ever.

One glance at Araceli's resume makes it clear that Araceli has committed her career to achieving justice and fairness for those who have been marginalized in our society. And I know – based on her integrity, character, and record – that on the bench she will uphold the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and will decide cases guided only by the law and facts.

I recently read a statement by President Biden as he announced a diverse slate of new judicial nominees: “Each is deeply qualified and prepared to deliver justice faithfully under our Constitution and impartially to the American people—and together they represent the broad diversity of background, experience, and perspective that makes our nation strong.” All of this can equally be said about Araceli, who is eminently qualified to now serve the public as a United States District Court judge. I recommend her without reservation.

If it would be helpful to speak with me further, I can be reached by email at [theltonhenderson@gmail.com](mailto:theltonhenderson@gmail.com) or cellphone, (415)215-5425.

Respectfully,

Thelton Henderson