

October 7, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

We are members of the New Mexico legal community writing to express our strong support for the nomination of Matthew L. Garcia to the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico. We are a group of lawyers and former lawyers with diverse backgrounds and legal practice areas. Many of us have gotten to know Mr. Garcia by litigating against him. Others have had the pleasure of working on the same side of the aisle with him. What we all agree on is that Matt is a remarkable lawyer and a man of tremendous integrity.

Mr. Garcia has a demonstrated history of academic and professional excellence. He excelled academically, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, from the University of New Mexico in 1999; a Master of Public Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in 2003; and a Juris Doctor from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 2005. He further distinguished his academic career conducting research while on a Fulbright Scholarship at the Helsinki School of Economics in Finland.

After law school, Mr. Garcia co-founded a prestigious law firm in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he remained in private practice until accepting the job of Chief General Counsel to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. As we all know, 2019 was a year that changed the trajectory of history with the emersion of the novel coronavirus disease that quickly swept around the world. Mr. Garcia's steady hand not only enabled him to counsel the administration on issues related to legislative priorities, but also ensured that New Mexico's efforts to save lives were legal and constitutional.

This Committee is no doubt aware of the accomplishments discussed above. But it is the Matt Garcia that is not seen on paper that endears him to those around him. Anyone that has been around Matt for even a few minutes can see his passion. He has a passion for music, for sports, and perhaps most of all, for the law. He genuinely loves and respects the practice of law. Equally as important, Matt loves the Land of Enchantment and deeply cares for his fellow New Mexicans. We have no doubt that you will get a glimpse of Matt's passion during his confirmation hearing. We ask you to confirm Mr. Garcia so that we, the members of the bar of the State of New Mexico, as well as all New Mexicans, can benefit from his position on the bench for years to come.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

*Please note that all organizational affiliations below are listed only for identification purposes.

Holly Agajanian
Chief General Counsel, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

Frank Apodaca
Attorney, SaucedoChavez, P.C.

Terri Beach
Coldwell Banker

Thomas C. Bird
Partner, Jennings Haug Keleher McLeod

Mike Dickman
Principal, Law Office of Mike Dickman

Kyle Duffy
Deputy General Counsel, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

Diego Esquibel
Barnett Law Firm

Stephen G. French
(Ret) New Mexico Court of Appeals

Douglas Gardner
Partner, Robles, Rael and Anaya P.C.

Jaime Kennedy
Assistant Counsel, Department of Navy Office of General Counsel

Jaclyn McLean
Partner, Hinkle Shanor LLP

Al Park
Park and Associates, LLC

Marcus J. Rael, Jr.
Managing Partner, Robles, Rael and Anaya, P.C.

Taylor Rahn

Partner, Robles, Rael and Anaya P.C.

Cody R. Rogers
Partner, Jarmie and Rogers

Jerry Walz
Walz and Associates, P.C.

Norman Weiss
Simone, Roberts and Weiss, P.A.

Geoffrey D. White
Park and Associates, LLC