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September 27, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
 Chairman  
 Committee on the Judiciary  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
 Ranking Member  
 Committee on the Judiciary  
 United State Senate  
 Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter in support of Matthew Garcia

Dear Senator Durbin and Senator Grassley:

The New Mexico Trial Lawyers Association writes this letter in support of Matthew Garcia, President Biden's nominee for Article III Judge in the Federal District Court of New Mexico.

Mr. Garcia has dedicated his professional life to public service. As General Counsel to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, he was at the center of some of the most difficult legal issues our state has faced, including challenges against public health orders during the Covid-19 pandemic. During legislative sessions, he was the lawyer who all stakeholders counted on to analyze and advise the governor on complicated legal issues. Even in private practice, his work was focused on serving the public. He represented the ACLU in a lawsuit against the New Mexico Department of Children, Youth, and Families to ensure safety and mental health services for youth in juvenile justice facilities. He argued before the New Mexico Supreme Court on behalf of a whistleblower who revealed misuse of public funds by a former Secretary of State. Most notably, he stood up for the constitutional rights of many individual New Mexico citizens, including some of our most vulnerable citizens - children, people with mental illness and people experiencing homelessness.

Mr. Garcia served on our Board of Directors during his time in private practice. Within our organization, Mr. Garcia was consistently called upon to analyze some of the most complex and nuanced legal issues because of his stellar reputation with other practitioners and the judiciary. He was always generous with his time and gave countless hours of service teaching continuing legal education seminars and contributing to our legal journal.

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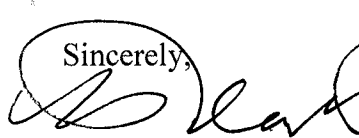
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Matthew Garcia is an exceptional nominee. He is intelligent, measured, patient, and generous with his time. His combination of intelligence and character would suit the position well. We urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to approve his nomination quickly.

Sincerely,  


Maria E. Touchet  
[mia@touchetlaw.com](mailto:mia@touchetlaw.com)  
 President of The New Mexico Trial Lawyers Association

cc: Rebecca Avita ([Rebecca\\_Avita@heinrich.senate.gov](mailto:Rebecca_Avita@heinrich.senate.gov))  
 Travis Knight ([Travis\\_Knight@heinrich.senate.gov](mailto:Travis_Knight@heinrich.senate.gov))

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