

September 1, 2022

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

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Mia Roberts Perez to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write to offer our strongest and most enthusiastic support for the confirmation of Mia Perez to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

We are criminal defense attorneys who practice in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The vast majority of us have appeared in front of Mia Perez for the whole of her tenure on the bench of the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia County. Moreover, many of us are former colleagues of hers from her time at the Defender Association of Philadelphia and while she was a private practitioner. Some of us are also former prosecutors. Bruce Franzel was her professor for Trial Advocacy at Temple Law School, and has watched her progress and success as both a lawyer and a judge with a great sense of pride.

From the beginning of her legal career to her time on the bench, Mia Perez has proven herself to have a high intellect, a strong work ethic, and an innate sense of fairness. She has always been an approachable and grounded person, which did not change upon becoming a judge. In her courtroom, she treats everyone with respect and listens to all sides with an open mind. Despite balancing one of the highest caseloads in the courthouse, her decisions are always well reasoned and thought-out, which evidences her extraordinary organizational skills and intelligence.

Mia Perez does not just have an intimate knowledge of the nuts and bolts of the various rules of evidence and legal procedure; she has a deep understanding of the philosophy and policy purpose behind each rule. She is therefore able to apply them consistently with an eye toward the equity and fairness that they are meant to provide. She does the same with the rules of her courtroom. They are designed to make sure that all non-lawyers—defendants, witnesses, complainants, and victims—understand what is happening and feel respected in her room. Similarly, the lawyers are treated with respect. Additionally, Mia Perez makes an exceptional effort to provide a level playing field by making sure that counsel for both sides is held to a high standard of preparedness and knowledge of the law.

Prior to becoming a judge, Mia Perez was a talented trial lawyer, having tried hundreds of cases to verdict, often a winning verdict, in both state and federal courts. At the Defender Association of Philadelphia, one of the most distinguished defender offices in the country, she was one of the first of her starting class to transition, based on merit, from unit to unit. She prepared, litigated, or resolved thousands of misdemeanor cases, and hundreds of felony bench trials, juvenile delinquency cases, and major felony jury trial cases. She has a breadth of trial experience both as a litigator and a jurist that will lend itself well as a District Court Judge.

Mia Perez has always been a dedicated public servant as both a public defender and a judge, however, even when she was in private practice that dedication remained as she served both as court-appointed counsel in Philadelphia County, and as a member of the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel for the District Court of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

In short, we all believe that Mia Perez possesses the knowledge, intelligence, experience, work ethic, and impartiality required of a District Court Judge, and give her our strongest endorsement.

Sincerely,

Jonathan R. Altschuler  
James F. Berardinelli  
Peter C. Bowers  
Matthew C. Boyd  
Kathryn Coviello Cacciamani  
Donald Chisholm II  
David Wesley Cornish  
William M. Davis  
Michael J. Diamondstein  
Paul M. DiMaio  
Todd Fiore  
Brian M. Fishman  
Bruce A. Franzel  
Olivia Gabriel  
Andrew G. Gay, Jr.  
Zak T. Goldstein  
Jay S. Gottlieb  
Matthew S. Hagarty  
Thomas Ivory  
Joseph Kelly  
Max Kramer  
Peter Alan Levin  
Susan M. Lin  
Patrick Link

Brian McMonagle  
Michael Medway  
W. Chris Montoya  
Andrew Montroy  
Laurence A. Narcisi III  
Carmen C. Nasuti III  
Gregory J. Pagano  
Fortunato N. Perri, Jr.  
Coley O. Reynolds  
Victoria L. Sanita  
Daniel Schatz  
Guy R. Sciolla  
Brianna Shaw  
Brad V. Shuttlesworth  
Marni Snyder  
Mingo Stroeber  
David Walker  
Lauren A. Wimmer  
Bruce Wolf  
Kenneth A. Young  
Edward M. Zawrotny