

August 5, 2022

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

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

Re: *The Hon. Mia Roberts Perez*
Judicial Nominee to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are members of the Pennsylvania legal community who write to you with enthusiastic support for the confirmation of Mia Roberts Perez as a judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. As an esteemed Common Pleas Court Judge and a valued member of our legal community, Judge Perez would be an asset to the court.

We represent many personal and professional backgrounds and experiences; we include public interest lawyers, in-house counsel, criminal defense attorneys, nonprofit directors, legal academics, and firm lawyers. We know Judge Perez from interacting with her personally and professionally. We believe Judge Perez would bring a demanding work ethic, the utmost integrity, impressive intelligence, and her unique professional and life experiences to the court.

Judge Perez's background, experience, and qualifications speak for themselves. After graduating from Tufts College and Temple Law School, she served as an assistant public defender for the Defender Association of Philadelphia. After that, she worked as a private attorney in a mid-size firm's Municipal Law Department and later ran her own firm that specialized in criminal defense and family law. During her time as a practitioner, Mia Roberts Perez conducted numerous hearings, motions, and trials before the Eastern District Court and was lead counsel for hundreds of trials, including capital homicide cases in state court. Through her impressive work, Judge Perez developed a reputation in the legal community as one of Philadelphia's foremost trial attorneys.

In 2016, Mia Roberts Perez became one of the youngest judges elected to the First Judicial District Court of Common Pleas. In her current position, Judge Perez again demonstrated her tireless work ethic, intelligence, extreme competence, and ethical integrity. Serving as a judge in both the Civil and Criminal Divisions, Judge Perez has presided over hundreds of criminal and civil matters ranging from damages disputes to felony trials. Her judicial colleagues have entrusted her with overseeing Philadelphia's criminal jury trial program and investigative grand juries, all while Judge Perez maintains a full trial schedule. As part of her grand jury work, Judge Perez regularly collaborates with this District Court and Assistant United States Attorneys. Finally, in recognition of her impressive work, Governor Wolf appointed Judge Perez to serve on Pennsylvania's Judicial Conduct Board.

Judge Perez has dedicated much of her professional life to public service. First, as a public defender, she represented our most vulnerable population—indigent people accused of crimes. Now, as a Common Pleas Court Judge, she presides thoughtfully, respectfully, and with the utmost care over matters that impact people’s lives. In addition, Judge Perez has also tirelessly dedicated herself to mentoring students as an adjunct lecturer and trial team coach at Temple University, teaching students how to become better lawyers.

The confirmation of Mia Roberts Perez would add a distinct and powerful voice to the court. The perspective that Judge Perez would bring would help address the pressing need for a more diverse range of professional and personal experiences on the federal bench. This perspective would benefit the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, given the tremendous variety of matters, interests, and litigants that regularly come before this court.

In conclusion, we believe that Mia Roberts Perez represents the best of our legal community and will be an outstanding addition to the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.*

Respectfully,

Alexandre Turner, Esq

Andrew D. Montroy, Esq.

Andrew J. Sciolla, Esq.

Anjelica Hendricks
Quattrone Center Fellow
University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

Anthony E. Stefanski, Esq.

Bethany R. Nikitenko, Esq.

Carina Laguzzi, Esq.

Cerys St. John Richter
Chief of Staff
Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law

Crystal M. Fritsch
Senior Discovery Attorney
Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP

* Please note that the organizational affiliations listed below are for identification purposes only and do not reflect any organization’s position.

David F. Herman, Esq.

David Rudovsky
Senior Fellow
Penn Law School

David J. Sander, Esq.

Dean M. Beer, Esq.

Gary Tannenbaum

Jason A. Cabrera
Member, Cozen O'Connor

Jennifer A. Santiago, Esq.

James J. Holman, Esq.

JP Faunes
Partner, Feldman Shepherd

Karen M. Pollins, Esq.
Goldblum, Pollins & Dennis, PC.

Kenya Bates, Esq.
Stern & Eisenberg

Leigh Skipper, Esq.

Luz Denise Negron-Bennett, Esq.
Managing Attorney
Fight 4 Families Law LLC

Mark B. Sheppard
Partner
Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg LLP

Mark W. Tanner
Co-Managing Shareholder
Feldman Shepherd

T. Matthew Leckman
Principal
Leckman Law, LLC

Melissa Pang.
Manager, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion,
Ballard Spahr.

Michael J. Engle
Partner
Armstrong Teasdale LLP

Nyssa Taylor
Criminal Justice Strategic Litigation & Policy Counsel
American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania

Prince P. Holloway, Esq.

Ross M. Miller
Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice
University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

Samantha E. Holbrook
Associate
Chimicles Schwartz Kriner & Donaldson-Smith LLP

Samantha J. Williams, Esq.
Director of Legislation and Policy
Philadelphia City Council

Sara Jacobson
Executive Director
Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania (PDAP)

Voci Bennett, Esq.