

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

August 5, 2022

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

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

We, the undersigned, served as prosecutors on behalf of the District Attorney's Office of Philadelphia under various administrations from 1984 to the present. We gladly offer our support for the nomination of Judge Mia Perez for a seat on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Each signee has experience with Judge Perez either as opposing counsel or as a presiding judge in criminal matters prosecuted in Philadelphia's Court of Common Pleas. Through our personal experiences with Judge Perez, we have witnessed her dedication to honing her craft as a jurist. We have also witnessed her commitment to justice for all citizens and her longstanding public service make her an ideal candidate for this appointment.

Judge Perez bears a strong personal history of serving the public and promoting access to justice. Judge Perez began her legal career at the Defender Association of Philadelphia, where she dedicated her skill and passion as a zealous advocate for indigent defendants. Judge Perez was a fair, pragmatic, and reasonable opponent, even with critical life outcomes at stake. She enjoyed that same reputation and positive rapport with her opponents when she transitioned to the private defense bar.

Once elected to Philadelphia's Court of Common Pleas, Judge Perez earned the respect of the members of the bar. Judge Perez is no stranger to hard work, long hours, and full dockets. It is not, however, the quantity of her work, alone, that merits recognition, but rather the quality and consistency of her commitment to the administration of justice and fairness that are particularly laudatory. As a presider, Judge Perez exhibits an ideal judicial temperament: patience, open-mindedness, courtesy, punctuality, firmness, compassion, and common sense. Her temperament from the bench is complimented by her skill as a jurist, highlighted by her mastery of the Rules of Evidence and Procedure.

Our judges must be committed to equal access to justice and that they should represent the diversity of our community, in terms of race, gender, and ethnicity, and as to professional experience and abilities. On the strength of these traits alone, we enthusiastically support Judge Perez's nomination as bringing a much-needed perspective to the bench. Judge Perez demonstrates a personal standard of ethical conduct that is remarkable among both the general citizenry and her fellow judges. Moreover, her decisions clearly manifest her respect for the rule of law, without influence by the identity, race, gender, political status, wealth, or relationship of any party or attorney before her. We support Judge Perez's nomination because of her consistent and dedicated commitment to the fair administration of justice. Judge Perez's impeccable ethics and integrity make her an ideal nominee to the federal bench.

As former or current assistant district attorneys, our sworn duty is clear, but not often achieved without challenge: to seek justice. We are charged with the enormous responsibility of investigating, litigating, and disposing of criminal charges with fairness, diligence, promptness, accuracy, and with the utmost respect and concern for the rights of the criminally accused, as well as our City's victims of crime and witnesses thereto. For each of us, having served the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is our proudest professional achievement. We cradle with reverence the rule of law and the importance of a representative system of justice and impartiality in the criminal justice system. With this reverence in mind, we have no doubt that Judge Perez will handle the work of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania more than ably and will approach every aspect of that work with the skill, fairness and respect worthy of the Court.

Respectfully submitted,

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