



October 13, 2021

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

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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write in enthusiastic support of the nomination of Judge Hernán Vera for the position of federal district judge.

As the Executive Directors of Bet Tzedek Legal Services, Inner City Law Center, the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA), and the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), each of us has worked closely with Judge Vera for many years while he was President/CEO of Public Counsel. We have collaborated with Judge Vera on litigation, community outreach, and public policy issues affecting low-income families, the homeless, seniors, immigrants, veterans, children, and other marginalized groups.

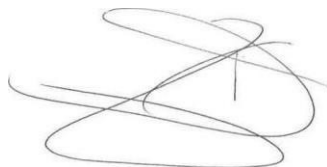
Specifically, we have worked with Judge Vera to address systemic issues of access to justice. In 2011, after the passage of the Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Act (AB590), a coalition of legal aid groups including Inner City Law Center, LAFLA, Neighborhood Legal Services, and Public Counsel created an innovative program to provide free legal services to tenants facing eviction in Los Angeles. In the first four years alone, the project assisted more than 19,000 tenants – producing a host of positive outcomes including greater settlements, increased move-out time, avoidance of credit reporting, and millions of additional dollars of deposits returned. Judge Vera was instrumental in the group planning and implementation of this program, a project that continues today and serves as a statewide model of how public investment in legal aid services serves both the community and the courts.

Judge Vera was personally involved with lawyers from Bet Tzedek, Inner City Law Center, and LAFLA in the tsunami of foreclosure-related litigation and consumer fraud that accompanied the 2008 Recession. We are proud that our attorneys worked together on the front lines to keep vulnerable families in their homes.

Judge Vera was also responsive to the immense legal needs that have faced immigrants in recent years. He created new immigration clinics to make Public Counsel responsive to the huge influx of DACA applicants and worked with NILC on various litigation and policy issues affecting low-income immigrants in our community.

But, perhaps most importantly, we believe that Judge Vera would make an excellent federal district judge because of the person that he is. His work ethic, integrity, even temperament, leadership skills, and commitment to the advancement of all communities make him an ideal candidate for the federal bench – especially given the Biden administration’s intention to nominate candidates of color with experience in legal aid and civil rights. We are proud to call Judge Vera our friend, and we urge his quick confirmation.

Very truly yours,



Diego Cartagena  
President & CEO  
Bet Tzedek Legal Services



Adam Murray  
Chief Executive Officer  
Inner City Law Center



Silvia Argueta  
Executive Director  
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles



Marielena Hincapié  
Executive Director  
National Immigration Law Center