



July 25, 2022

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

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

**RE: NOMINATION OF MIA ROBERTS PEREZ TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR
THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write in support of the nomination of the Honorable Mia Roberts Perez to serve as a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. I have personally known Judge Perez almost twenty years. She is an intelligent, patient, and professional judge on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas and will be an outstanding member of the federal bench for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

I first met Judge Perez when she was a law student at the Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law. She was selected by Temple and the late Edward D. Ohlbaum (then Director of Advocacy at Temple Law) to be a part of their prestigious national trial team. I had the honor of coaching Judge Perez while she was on the trial team. Trial team students, particularly at Temple Law, work tirelessly to prepare trials and compete against schools throughout the country. As such, it is important that each law student represent Temple well, not just by winning, but by representing the school in a professional manner. Judge Perez excelled at both aspects.

In fact, during her final year of law school, Judge Perez, along with 3 of her teammates won the most prestigious law school competition aptly entitled the "Tournament of Champions." However, winning is not everything. What I observed firsthand beyond Judge Perez's natural litigation abilities, fair temperament, and hard work ethic was her collegiality and professionalism. The only thing worse than a sore loser is an ungracious winner. Indeed, Judge Perez was gracious, modest, and the epitome of professional.

Those personality traits carried through her time as a trial attorney and currently as a judge in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. Once I moved to the Washington, D.C. area to be a professor at the American University Washington College of Law, I continued to watch her career trajectory from afar. I heard from many colleagues about how well-respected Judge Perez was as a practitioner. Judge Perez is a role model to any lawyer as she is ethical, fair, and just. When I learned that she ran for and won an election to the bench at such a young age, I was not surprised. I have not personally practiced in front of Judge Perez, but counsel from both sides of cases have informed me that she is patient and provides all parties the opportunity to be heard. Beyond that, Judge Perez is incredibly smart and truly understands the rules of evidence. Her background as a trial lawyer, coupled with her education and knowledge of the rules of evidence can sometimes be a rarity but one of the best reasons she is suited to become a federal judge.

While I lived in the Washington, D.C., I also created Trial Advocacy Consulting & Training (TACT) to train lawyers, government agencies, and law firms the art and skill of trial advocacy. Judge Perez has presented CLE's for attorneys throughout the country with TACT. Specifically, she taught a group of attorneys from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau about best practices for admitting and using exhibits during trial. She has repeatedly taught for a private training I created entitled "For Women By Women Trial Advocacy Training" (FWBW). After every CLE she taught, the attendees rave about her teaching style and skills. The women who attended the FWBW program have commented how inspired they were by her and how incredible it was to be taught by a judge who was so down to earth and willing to answer any and all questions without criticism. Here are a few examples of testimonials from attorneys about Judge Perez:

- "So lucky to practice admitting exhibits to a Judge!! Judge Perez is a wonderful teacher and that was soooo helpful!"
- "I LOVED and super appreciated feedback from Judge Perez!"
- "Both presenters were great. Especially great to hear a judge's perspective."
- "Judge Perez does a great job providing constructive criticism."

Not only is Judge Perez dedicated to helping advanced licensed attorneys, but she is equally dedicated to empowering and educating future attorneys. Now that I am back in the Philadelphia area, I am proud to act as the Director of Trial Advocacy at Temple Law where Judge Perez teaches Trial Advocacy as an adjunct faculty member. She teaches her students to zealously represent their client while maintaining their integrity and a high ethical bar. Her students repeatedly provide glowing comments about her teaching skills, her dedication to the practice of law, and her patience. Please reference the separate letter from Temple Law School authored by Professor Jules Epstein for more details regarding her role as an adjunct faculty member.

I would be remiss if I did not include that I am personally in awe of Judge Perez. She illustrates how the student can far surpass the teacher. I knew there was something special about Judge Perez the moment I met her, and I am beyond proud that she has pursued this career path blazing



trials for many other female Latina lawyers and judges. She would be an asset to the Third Circuit just as she has been an asset to the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. As such, I strongly urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to promptly review and advance her nomination, so that the full Senate can promptly confirm her to the Third Circuit. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth L. Lippy

ELIZABETH L. LIPPY, ESQ.
OWNER, TACT