

August 4, 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: Nomination of Mia Roberts Perez to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are law professors from Temple University's Beasley School of Law who specialize in different areas of law. We write in enthusiastic support for the nomination of Judge Mia Roberts Perez to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Collectively, we are familiar with Judge Perez as a student, as an attorney, as a member of the legal community, and as a judge. She is a wise, careful, and compassionate judge with impressive professional credentials and a strong commitment to fairness, equal justice, and the rule of law. She will be an outstanding member of the federal bench.

Judge Perez's accomplishments demonstrate that she has the intelligence, temperament, and experience necessary to serve with excellence and distinction on the United States District Court. She earned her B.A. from Tufts University and is a Philadelphia public school graduate. We are proud to claim her as a 2006 graduate of the Beasley School of Law of Temple University. While a student at Temple, Judge Perez was an outstanding member of Temple's National Championship Trial Team and was awarded a raft of prizes for her advocacy skills. After graduating from law school, Judge Perez served as a public defender with the Defender Association of Philadelphia and was in private practice, handling both criminal and civil matters before her election to the Court of Common Pleas in 2015. She has also served as an adjunct professor at Temple in our nationally ranked trial advocacy program for over ten years.

Judge Perez has substantial litigation experience in criminal and civil matters as an attorney and as a judge so she will bring a sophisticated understanding of trial procedure to the federal bench. She has presided over hundreds of major felony cases and has served in the Complex Litigation Group of the Civil Trial Division for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. As an attorney, Judge Perez represented clients in criminal and family law matters and represented municipalities in land use and zoning matters. These cases have required balanced and creative analysis of complex and difficult legal questions. Judge Perez has consistently exhibited the ability to perform and present that analysis in her written and oral presentations as an attorney and as a judge. She has presented at numerous legal programs ranging from educational programs for judges, to Continuing Legal Education programs, to talking with

elementary school students to open their eyes to the range of possibilities life can offer. Judge Perez's strongest ongoing relationship with Temple is her role as Adjunct Professor of Law in Temple's nationally renowned Trial Advocacy program for ten years. She has taught our students evidence and advocacy skills and presided over numerous mock trials with attorneys in our graduate LLM program in Trial Advocacy. Temple students aspire to all kinds of careers and Judge Perez has been a truly effective teacher at reaching and teaching them all.

Through these experiences, Judge Perez has earned a reputation for her integrity, legal expertise, and effectiveness as an advocate, and for her wisdom, character, and fairness as a judge. She has exhibited a keen ability to engage in novel and often challenging legal issues with judges, colleagues, opposing counsel, and law students in an open-minded, thoughtful, and respectful manner. If confirmed, Judge Perez also would broaden the range of experiences and perspectives represented on the federal bench in important and valuable ways. She would be one of the few individuals with experience as a public defender to serve on the court, bringing professional diversity to the court that would enrich and enhance its decision-making. Judge Perez also would be one of the few women of color to serve in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Judge Perez is Puerto Rican, Black and Japanese and would be only the second Latina and the first Asian American on the Eastern District of Pennsylvania bench. In short, Judge Perez would be a wonderful addition to the federal bench, and we are excited to support her nomination. We strongly urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to promptly review and advance her nomination, so that the full Senate can promptly confirm her to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,*

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* All signatories have signed in their personal capacities, and institutional affiliations are noted for identification purposes only.