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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 Hon. Mia Roberts Perez to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

We, the full time Trial Advocacy of Temple University Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, gladly and strongly support the nomination of Judge Perez for a seat on the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Our interactions with Judge Perez -at the Law School and in continuing legal education programs – and our knowledge of her reputation on the Common Pleas bench and in the legal community – make this letter of support an easy one to write.

Our background is diverse in its relation to the practice of law and criminal law in particular. Two of us have a background in criminal defense and the third is a former prosecutor; each has extensive engagement in professional organizations relating to law, such as serving on various United States Department of Justice and NIST workgroups and projects and as a member of the National Commission on Forensic Science (Professor Epstein) and on Philadelphia's Criminal Justice Advisory Board (Professor Braccia); and each of us teaches continuing education programs to the bench and/or Bar nationally and in Pennsylvania.

Here is what we can share, in detail, about Judge Perez.

- She has been an adjunct faculty member in our Integrated Trial Advocacy Program, training students in the basics of trial advocacy. Her students are diverse in personal background and in career goals, the latter ranging across prosecution, criminal defense, and civil litigation. That she teaches them skills at the highest level and with great results is unquestioned; what is more important is that our students, year in and year out, extol her as a teacher and as someone who is inclusive, respectful and encouraging.
- In our LL.M. in Trial Advocacy program, Judge Perez has presided over simulated jury trials tried by legal graduate students from across the United States who have come to Temple to advance their skills. Judge Perez held our graduate students to the highest standards, driving them to improve their working knowledge and application of the Rules of Evidence and Criminal and Civil Procedure. Even within the context of these academic courtroom exercises, Judge Perez demonstrated impeccable judicial temperament; an ability to communicate with counsel, jurors, and witnesses calmly and courteously; a willingness to listen to and consider all sides of a debatable proposition. Our students noted her patience, open-mindedness, firmness, humility, common sense, and humor as desirable attributes of any jurist.
- Judge Perez has been a mainstay in continuing legal education nationally – for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and repeatedly in the program “For Women By Women Trial Advocacy Training.”
- Each of us also keeps involved with lawyers in the Philadelphia legal community. Judge Perez has the reputation of being knowledgeable in the law, respectful to all who appear before her, and a ‘down the middle’ judge who favors neither side but takes each case and litigant afresh and impartially.

Each of us values an independent court system with judges of the highest caliber. Everything Judge Perez has shown in the classroom and in her career as we know it makes us confident that she will be the type of jurist our history demands and our society needs – someone who will apply the law without favor and with respect, fairness and acuity.

Sincerely,

/s/ Professor Jules Epstein, Director of Advocacy Programs

/s/ Professor Elizabeth Lippy, Director of Trial Advocacy Programs

/s/ Professor Marian Braccia, Director of LL.M. in Trial Advocacy