



Blaine T. Mynatt  
Damian L. Martínez  
Bradley A. Springer†  
Benjamin J. Young  
Sara E. Woods†  
Alan J. Dahl  
Haley R. Grant

*Of Counsel*  
David McNeill, Jr.  
†Also licensed in Texas

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VIA EMAIL

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
c/o of the Honorable Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator for New Mexico  
303 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[Simon\\_Boyce@heinrich.senate.gov](mailto:Simon_Boyce@heinrich.senate.gov)

**Re: Letter of Recommendation for the Nomination of Margaret I. Strickland to the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write this letter in full support of the nomination and confirmation of Margaret I. Strickland to fill a judicial vacancy in the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico. I have known Ms. Strickland for many years both professionally and personally and she is one of the most ethical, conscientious, and caring individuals I know. Ms. Strickland has a breadth and depth of knowledge and professional experience that will make her an excellent United States District Judge.

Over the years, I have litigated several civil rights cases against Ms. Strickland and can attest to the quality and vigor of her work. Moreover, because her practice includes federal civil rights litigation as well as criminal defense, she has developed keen insight into the issues that a United States District Judge will confront on a daily basis. Ms. Strickland is a wonderful trial lawyer; both skilled and determined. In litigating cases against Ms. Strickland, I have observed her interactions with the Court, the Court's staff, her staff, and opposing counsel. In those interactions, she treats everyone with the utmost respect and has a quick wit that puts everyone at ease.

My professional relationship with Ms. Strickland has always been technically adversarial yet pleasant. My practice focuses on civil rights defense while Ms. Strickland's is plaintiff and criminal defense oriented. Despite this, in our litigation I have always found her writing and arguments to be creative and insightful. More importantly, Ms. Strickland has the ability to connect with and appreciate all people, from all walks of life. She is empathetic and understands the needs and concerns of everyday individuals.

Although I initially came to know Ms. Strickland as opposing counsel in litigation, over the years, we have developed a friendship. Indeed, she and I often discuss issues separate from cases we are litigating against each other. I have had the pleasure to discuss social issues with Ms. Strickland including the many challenges in New Mexico involving police use of force, poverty, drug and

alcohol abuse, and gang violence. Ms. Strickland has always shown remarkable insight, broad mindedness, compassion, and balance in her views. She is willing and able to form and hold her own opinion but remains accessible to keep herself open to new information and philosophies. Because of the mix of cultures in our state, she has a keen awareness with respect to issues of class and ethnicity. Her awareness of social issues is an asset that is commendable.

Ms. Strickland's personal life is one of dedication to her community and she freely gives of her time. Ms. Strickland's public service includes sitting on the community stakeholders panel which assisted in the selection of a new Las Cruces Police Department chief. Both she and I also recently participated as guest speakers in an undergraduate law class at New Mexico State University concerning police use of force issues. She also volunteers with the Action Program for Animals and the Boston Terrier Rescue. Simply, her public service over the past several years is beyond question.

I can think of no better nominee for confirmation to the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico. I believe Ms. Strickland will make a superb United States District Judge. She has a deep sense of integrity, compassion, and generosity, which will make her a committed and compassionate United States District Judge. Accordingly, I highly recommend her for confirmation.

Sincerely,

MYNATT MARTÍNEZ SPRINGER P.C.



DAMIAN L. MARTÍNEZ