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October 25, 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

Re: Nomination of David H. Urias to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

I write in support of the nomination of David H. Urias to serve as a judge on the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico. Mr. Urias unquestionably has the strong qualifications to be a U.S. District Court judge, and I respectfully urge the Committee on the Judiciary and the full Senate to promptly review and confirm his nomination.

I am currently in my seventh year as dean at the University of New Mexico School of Law, where I have been on the faculty since 2005. Prior to that, I practiced law in Indiana and Colorado. Most recently, I was a partner at a large law firm in Denver. As dean, I serve as Chair of all New Mexico Judicial Nominating Commissions ("JNC"), and, as a political independent, I am very even-handed when it comes to reviewing applicants for judicial vacancies. After years of serving as JNC Chair, I am very familiar with the qualifications that are necessary to be a good judge, and I am quite certain that Mr. Urias has those qualifications.

Mr. Urias has a strong reputation in our legal community. He is a graduate of our law school and he is the managing partner at one of the most well-regarded plaintiff law firms in New Mexico. He has a reputation for being hard working, highly intelligent, and very ethical. I think he would make a fine federal judge.

Best regards,

Sergio Pareja
Dean & Professor of Law