



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF IOWA
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CATHERINE L. HANAWAY

September 22, 2026

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We write as the Attorneys General of our respective States in support of the nomination of Jesus A. Osete to the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, and we urge the Committee to report the nomination favorably.

Our offices are constantly in federal district court. We defend our States' statutes there, bring enforcement actions there, defend our state officers there, and defend our state agencies there too. That vantage point teaches Attorneys General quickly which judges have the work ethic, demeanor, and sense of justice that exemplify the best of those on the bench. Mr. Osete will be that kind of judge, and his record proves the point.

Start with his training. Mr. Osete clerked for Judge Bobby E. Shepherd on the Eighth Circuit and for Chief Justice Zel M. Fischer on the Supreme Court of Missouri. He came to those clerkships from Washington University School of Law, where he was Senior Executive Editor of the Washington University Law Review. Before that, he worked in the United States Senate, where he worked for Senator John McCain. Mr. Osete has seen from the inside how judges decide cases, and how much of the deciding depends on taking the right approach in court.

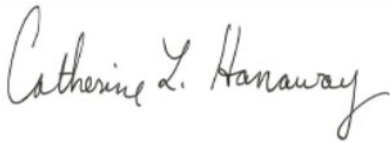
As Missouri's Deputy Solicitor General and later as Deputy Attorney General for Special Litigation, Mr. Osete did the work that several of us assign in our own

offices every day, and he did it at every level, including arguing in the Supreme Court of the United States. He then handled high-stakes appellate and trial litigation in private practice at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, was General Counsel to the Missouri Secretary of State, and today is Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. His breadth of experience is impressive: State appellate work, private civil practice, executive-branch counseling, and federal enforcement.

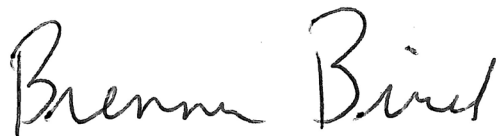
That breadth matters for the Western District of Missouri in particular. A district judge there will adjudicate criminal trials, prisoner petitions, employment cases, agency review, and the occasional statewide constitutional challenge, perhaps in the same month. A nominee who has litigated against the federal government and for it, who has represented a State and private clients, and who has argued in front of judges at all levels of the federal and state judicial systems, starts with the habits that a judge needs.

The Committee should report Mr. Osete's nomination favorably, and the Senate should confirm him without delay.

Respectfully,



CATHERINE L. HANAWAY
Missouri Attorney General



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Iowa Attorney General

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Attorney General of
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