

September 28, 2026

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nomination of Jesus A. Osete, United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Durbin:

We write as former United States Attorneys and senior officials in the United States Department of Justice in strong support of the nomination of Jesus A. Osete to serve as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

Our service at the Department gives us an appreciation for the responsibilities entrusted to its lawyers and for the qualities that matter in a federal judge. The Department routinely confronts difficult questions involving constitutional rights, federal law, and the proper limits of government authority. Its senior lawyers must exercise sound judgment, evaluate competing arguments fairly, and understand that the power of the federal government carries with it a corresponding responsibility to exercise that power carefully.

Jesus has built a career that reflects substantial experience with those questions. He currently serves as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division, one of the Department's principal litigating components. The Division handles matters involving fundamental constitutional and statutory rights and some of the most consequential litigation in the federal government. Serving in its senior leadership requires a lawyer to engage difficult legal questions, oversee significant litigation, and appreciate both the authority and the limits of the federal government.

Those of us who have served at the Department understand what that responsibility entails. The Justice Department possesses extraordinary authority. Its lawyers act on behalf of the United States and make decisions that can have profound consequences for individuals, businesses, states, and communities. Senior officials must know not only what the government has the power to do, but what the Constitution and laws of the United States permit it to do. They must be willing to confront hard questions honestly and distinguish sound legal analysis from a preferred policy outcome. That experience is directly relevant to service on the federal bench.

Jesus also brings far more than his current Justice Department role to this nomination. Before joining DOJ, he served Missouri as Deputy Solicitor General and Deputy Attorney General for Special Litigation and later as General Counsel to the Missouri Secretary of State. He also practiced appellate law at a prestigious law firm, clerked for two respected judges, and argued before the Supreme Court of the United States. That combination of experience is uncommon.

Jesus has represented government and private clients. He has advised public officials and served inside judicial chambers. He has litigated significant appellate matters and now holds a senior position at the Department of Justice. He has seen the legal system from the perspective of an advocate, counselor, government lawyer, and judicial law clerk.

A federal district judge must do something different from all of those roles. A judge must give every litigant a fair hearing, consider competing arguments on their merits, respect the limits of judicial power, and apply the law faithfully regardless of the identity of the parties or the popularity of the result.

Jesus's career has prepared him well for that responsibility. His record reflects significant legal ability, extensive public service, deep familiarity with constitutional and federal law, and experience across the institutions that shape our legal system. It also reflects a lawyer who has repeatedly chosen public service and accepted positions carrying substantial responsibility.

Some of us know Jesus personally. Others know him through his professional reputation and record. What unites us is our experience at the Department of Justice and our understanding of the qualities required of lawyers entrusted with significant federal authority. From that perspective, we believe Jesus is exceptionally well prepared to serve on the United States District Court.

The Western District of Missouri would benefit from a judge with his breadth of experience, understanding of federal and state government, and substantial appellate background. We strongly support the nomination of Jesus A. Osete and respectfully urge the Committee to report his nomination favorably to the full Senate.

Respectfully,

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