

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

Nomination of Jesus A. Osete to the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Durbin, and Members of the Committee:

We write as colleagues of Jesus A. Osete who have served with him during this Administration.¹ We strongly support his nomination to serve as a United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

Our support comes from having worked with Jesus and seeing him handle some of the difficult legal questions that come before him. He is an excellent lawyer with sound judgment, strong character, and a deep respect for the rule of law. We have also seen firsthand that he has the temperament necessary to serve as a federal judge.

Jesus currently serves as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division. The position requires him to address significant constitutional and statutory questions, oversee consequential litigation, and advise Department leadership on matters that often receive substantial public attention. Those responsibilities require careful legal judgment and, at times, a willingness to give difficult advice.

Jesus has consistently met that standard. He takes the time to understand the facts and the governing law. He asks difficult questions and expects the same rigor from those around him. He listens to competing views and does not dismiss an argument simply because he disagrees with it. Most importantly, he is willing to say what he believes the law requires, including when that answer may not be the easiest one to give. That experience is one of the reasons we believe he will be an excellent judge.

Those of us who have practiced at the Department of Justice understand the difference between the role of an advocate and the role of a judge. Department lawyers are responsible for representing the United States. A judge has a different obligation: to give the parties a fair hearing and apply the law faithfully to the facts of the case. Nothing in our experience with Jesus causes us to doubt that he understands that distinction. To the contrary, the way he approaches his work gives us confidence that he will take that responsibility seriously.

¹ The signatories join this letter solely in their individual capacities. This letter does not reflect the views of the United States Department of Justice or any other governmental entity.

We have also seen how Jesus conducts himself with colleagues. He is thoughtful, respectful, and straightforward. He treats lawyers fairly regardless of their position or seniority and is comfortable engaging with people who see an issue differently. He does not confuse disagreement with a lack of good faith. Those qualities matter in any lawyer but they are particularly important in a judge.

Jesus's work at the Department is part of a broader career that has prepared him well for the bench. Before joining the Department, he served as Deputy Solicitor General and Deputy Attorney General for Special Litigation in the Missouri Attorney General's Office, served as General Counsel to the Missouri Secretary of State, practiced at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, and clerked for Judge Bobby Shepherd of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and then-Chief Justice Zel Fischer of the Supreme Court of Missouri.

That is an impressive record, but our reason for writing is more personal. We have worked with Jesus. We have seen how he exercises judgment when the issues are difficult and how seriously he takes the responsibilities that come with public service. We trust his legal judgment and his integrity and we believe he will approach the judicial role with the same seriousness.

President Trump made an excellent choice in nominating Jesus A. Osete to the Western District of Missouri. We are proud to support his nomination and respectfully urge the Committee to report his nomination favorably to the full Senate, and the Senate to confirm him.

Respectfully,

Diego Pestana
Brian D. Nieves
Chad Mizelle
Stuart McCommas
Matt Zandi
Abhishek Kambli
Paul Perkins
Rachel Jag
Brandon Wroblewski
Jeff Morrison
Jordan Carpenter

Harmeet Dhillon
Eric Sell
Jonas Geissler
Luis Perez
Pat McCarthy
Andrew Braniff
James Breslo
Greg Dolin
Barry Arrington
Carrie Pagnucco