

November 1, 2021

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

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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write in strong support of Judge Linda Lopez's nomination to the District Court for the Southern District of California. We are former colleagues who had the opportunity to work with Judge Lopez during her tenure at Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. Judge Lopez embodies all the qualities we need in the bench: she has the integrity, background, experience, intellectual capacity, and temperament to be an excellent District Judge.

Throughout her legal career, Judge Lopez has performed at the highest level. In addition to her current position as a magistrate judge, she is a seasoned litigator and a dedicated public servant who offers diverse professional experience to the District Court bench. As a former public defender, Judge Lopez served as an advocate for indigent clients who were often members of marginalized groups in our community. In that role, she became intimately acquainted with the human costs of our legal system and the critical, gatekeeping function of the judiciary. That unique experience and perspective enhances her ability to continue to serve her community as a member of the District Court bench.

All of us worked with Judge Lopez and witnessed first-hand her exceptional commitment to public service. Judge Lopez earned the respect of both her colleagues and adversaries. She had the reputation as an ethical and professional advocate. She dedicated herself not only to her clients but also to our community. Judge Lopez acted as an ambassador to our profession by offering her unique perspective to young people through several court outreach programs. She was also the liaison with the Federal Bar Association and other bar organizations. As a magistrate judge, Judge Lopez offers courtesy and respect not only to attorneys who practice before her but also to those criminally accused who appear in her courtroom. In all of her professional endeavors, Judge Lopez brings her talents, her unwavering spirit, and her commitment to justice.

In addition to her legal background, Judge Lopez is the daughter of immigrants and, if confirmed, will be the only active Latina judge on the District Court for the Southern District of California, a district that serves and impacts many Latinx community members. Her confirmation will bring much needed diversity to the Southern District of California's bench, at a time when representation is more important than ever.

Judge Lopez's personal history reflects her steadfast dedication to the pursuit of excellence. She is tough and principled, intellectually honest and ethical. Based on her qualifications, intellect, integrity, and commitment to justice, we proudly endorse Judge Lopez to serve as District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Very truly yours,

Caitlin E. Howard  
Whitney Z. Bernstein  
Deke Falls  
Zandra Lopez  
Amrutha N. Jindal  
Sara M. Peloquin  
Leila Morgan  
Nathan Feneis  
Cassandra Lopez  
Ryan Stitt  
Elizabeth Barros  
Kasha Castillo  
Benjamin Davis  
Timothy Garrison  
Michelle Betancourt  
Chloe Dillon  
Kristi Hughes  
Matthew Fleming  
Heather Rogers  
Tommy Vu  
Jodi Thorp  
Reuben Cahn

Todd Burns  
Sandra Lechman  
Alana McMains  
Stephen Demik  
Robert H. Rexrode  
Ellis M. Johnston III  
John Ellis  
James M. Chavez  
Doug Keller  
Erica Zunkel  
Hanni M. Fakhoury  
Hootan Baigmohammadi  
Ben Lechman  
Bridget Kennedy  
Steven Hubachek  
Joshua Jones  
Craig Smith  
Harini Raghupathi  
Shaffy Moeel  
Jamal S. Muhammad  
Michael Marks  
Ryan Fraser