



KENNEDY, HERNANDEZ & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Attorneys at Law

Paul J. Kennedy
Jessica M. Hernandez
Elizabeth A. Harrison
Henry A. Jones

October 28, 2021

Via E-mail Only

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: Recommendation in Support of Judicial Nomination of David H. Urias

Dear Mr. Durbin and Mr. Grassley:

I am writing to express my strong support for David H. Urias as a nominee for appointment to the position of United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico. Mr. Urias and I met when I was general counsel for New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez, and he was one of the lead plaintiffs' counsel in a high-profile lawsuit against our administration. Although we were opposing counsel, I was impressed by Mr. Urias' unwavering professionalism and his ability to look past partisan considerations to find meaningful solutions to difficult and important challenges.

As I have come to know Mr. Urias over the years, I have seen how his extensive legal background gives him a unique skill set as an attorney. His professional experience spans government, private, and non-profit sectors. Mr. Urias spent time as a federal judicial law clerk in Washington, D.C., a litigator in complex civil and criminal cases in New York, and a civil rights attorney for a non-profit organization in Texas. These were prestigious positions in high-profile organizations. He could have gone anywhere in the country. I was very pleased that he took the skills he gained in those positions and brought them back to New Mexico to serve his community. He is currently the managing partner at a very well-respected law firm where he has continued to do a variety of complex litigation.

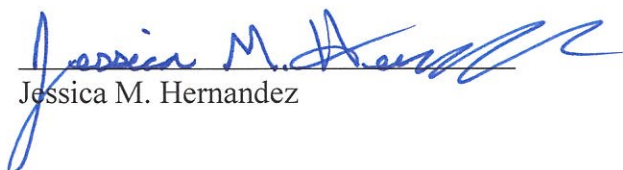
Because of my own background as a political appointee to high-level legal positions in both state and local government, I have worked closely with professionals across political affiliations. I have learned to appreciate those who are willing to approach every situation with a collaborative attitude regardless of the politics involved. Though our politics differ, my interactions with Mr. Urias over the years give me confidence that he has that attitude and would bring that approach to his service on the bench. I recognize Mr. Urias' respect for the rule of law and his ability to be fair-minded and work toward just resolutions. Partisan interests have never

been an obstacle to him creating meaningful relationships with others or from doing his job with excellence. This dedication to fairness and civility are invaluable qualities that Mr. Urias would bring to the federal judiciary and which would serve New Mexico well.

I recently started team teaching a class with Mr. Urias at the University of New Mexico School of Law and have had the opportunity to see his legal ability and commitment to his community in action. He is generous with his time with our students and offers them insights into trial practice that I have enjoyed learning from as I work with him.

I strongly recommend Mr. Urias for confirmation and appointment. With his broad range of legal experience, dedication to his community, and ability to fairly decide issues, he will be an incredible asset to the federal judiciary here in New Mexico. Thank you for your consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely,



Jessica M. Hernandez