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October 27, 2021

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United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

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Re: Confirmation of David Herrera Urias to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

The New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association (NMHBA) is proud to strongly support the appointment of David Herrera Urias to the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico and respectfully urges the Committee and full Senate to confirm his nomination.

Formed in 1978, the NMHBA is a non-partisan organization comprised of members with diverse political backgrounds practicing throughout New Mexico. As an organization, our mission is to support New Mexico's Hispanic attorneys by promoting the advancement of Hispanic Americans in the legal profession, encouraging the legal education of Hispanic Americans, and furthering our members' professional development. With this mission in mind, we submit our support for Mr. Urias with the belief that he will be an exceptional addition to the federal bench.

As an attorney, Mr. Urias evinces an ability to objectively consider issues and apply unbiased reasoning in pursuit of a just result. These qualities will serve Mr. Urias well on the bench. We are confident that he will impartially consider matters before him. Moreover, Mr. Urias treats everyone that he encounters with dignity and respect and will continue to do so as a judge. As one of few Hispanic candidates for Article III appointments, his personal experience and involvement in the New Mexico Hispanic community gives Mr. Urias unique perspective into issues that affect New Mexicans – a perspective that is greatly needed on the federal bench. If appointed, Mr. Urias will not only faithfully execute his judicial duties, but he will do so in a manner that considers the unique perspectives and lived experiences of racial minorities. This is imperative to the pursuit of equal justice.

New Mexico Hispanic
Bar Association
c/o State Bar of New Mexico
P.O. Box 92860
Albuquerque, NM 87199

nmhispanicbar@gmail.com
newmexicohispanicbar.org

Mr. Urias has steadfastly supported the Hispanic community in New Mexico not only through his involvement with our organization but through his legal practice. Throughout his twenty years of trial practice, Mr. Urias has argued against systemic discrimination against Hispanic people and fought for Hispanic civil rights. Mr. Urias' experience includes representation of young Hispanic immigrants separated from their families at the border, suits challenging federal immigration enforcement tactics employed at state courthouses, and suits brought on behalf of various immigrants' rights organizations in this state. In addition to his practice, Mr. Urias has also fostered an exemplary reputation in the New Mexico legal community for his mentorship of many young Hispanic attorneys and law students. Mr. Urias' long and established history of support for the Hispanic community in New Mexico is exactly why the NMHBA supports his appointment. His insight and qualifications will undoubtedly make an outstanding addition to the federal bench.

The appointment of a respected, qualified, humble, and community-minded Hispanic attorney to the federal bench in New Mexico – a majority-minority state – would cultivate a diverse, inclusive judiciary and level the playing field for people of color. Of the 8 current federal judges currently serving in New Mexico, only 3 are people of color.

For these reasons and the reasons presented to you by the White House and others, we encourage the Committee and full Senate to confirm the appointment of David Herrera Urias to the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alicia M. Santos

Alicia Santos, Esq.

President