



PRESIDENT  
RAKIM BROOKS

CHAIR  
PAULETTE MEYER

August 25, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Durbin:

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing 148 public interest and civil rights organizations, I write to strongly support the confirmation of Judge Mia Roberts Perez to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

As a former public defender, a litigator who has managed high-stakes criminal cases, and an experienced state court judge, Judge Perez would be a vital addition to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Judge Perez has spent much of her career providing legal aid and services to some of the most vulnerable individuals in our society. Whether she is zealously advocating on behalf of a client or overseeing complex litigation in her courtroom, Judge Perez has shown a deep commitment to the rule of law and to securing equal justice for all.

After graduating from Temple University's Beasley School of Law in 2006, Judge Perez joined the Defender Association of Philadelphia as an assistant public defender, spending four years protecting the rights of indigent people accused of crimes. She subsequently gained civil law experience in private practice at the law firm Friedman Schuman, before returning to criminal defense work by founding her own law firm, Perez Law LLC. At Perez Law, she worked tirelessly to represent clients in high-stakes claims, including multiple cases where the prosecution was seeking the death penalty. She has extensive litigation experience, trying approximately 1,000 cases to verdict or final decision.

Judge Perez also has nearly six years of judicial experience, as she was elected to the First Judicial District of the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas in 2016. Just 33-years-old at the time, she became one of the youngest judges in the court's history. Since her successful campaign, Judge Perez has presided over approximately 1,850 cases, including 400 jury or bench trials that went to verdict or judgment. She has extensive experience adjudicating criminal, civil, and constitutional disputes and has earned a reputation as an even-handed administrator of justice.

In addition to her judicial service, Judge Perez is deeply involved in her community. She has spent time representing indigent defendants as a member of the Criminal Justice Act Panel and has volunteered at

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expungement clinics. From 2011 to 2021, she also taught as an adjunct law professor at her alma mater, Temple University. As part of her role within the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Judge Perez co-chairs the Judicial Education Committee and serves on the Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Pennsylvania Hispanic Bar Association.

Judge Perez would be just the second Latina and first Asian American to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She would also be joining a court that currently has just four women out of the seventeen total active judges. Our courts should reflect the diversity of the communities they serve, and the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, which includes Philadelphia, exemplifies the rich diversity of our nation. Judge Perez is not only eminently qualified for this position, but she would also help the court more closely resemble its constituency.

Given her exemplary qualifications, the Senate should swiftly confirm Judge Mia Roberts Perez to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

*Rakim A.D. Brooks*

Rakim Brooks  
President, Alliance for Justice