

Senator Heinrich's Introduction of Margaret Strickland

Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

It is my pleasure and honor to introduce Margaret Strickland, President Biden's nominee to be a District Court Judge for the District Court of New Mexico.

Ms. Strickland was born and raised in the Southwest border region where this District Court seat presides.

She attended New Mexico State University and the University of Texas at El Paso, before attending law school at New York University.

Ms. Strickland returned to the Southwest after law school and started her career with the Las Cruces Office of the New Mexico Public Defender, representing clients in the juvenile drug court and in felony defense work.

In 2011, Ms. Strickland formed her own law firm continuing her public service work representing indigent defendants in federal court.

Ms. Strickland has litigated both criminal and civil cases, including a significant number in the Federal District Court located in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

She's also appeared before the New Mexico Court of Appeals, the New Mexico Supreme Court, and the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, and filed before the United States Supreme Court.

Ms. Strickland served on the Board of New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers for over a decade, including as president.

In 2018, the Federal District of New Mexico appointed her to represent all Criminal Justice Act lawyers as a "panel representative."

Ms. Strickland has also done significant volunteer work with programs that reduce the rate of euthanasia for companion animals. She and her husband, Greg, foster dogs and puppies set for euthanasia so the dogs can be placed in a home.

If confirmed Ms. Strickland will be faced with one of the busiest federal dockets in the country and inherit a heavy backlog of cases.

I am confident that her experience and her incredible work ethic will best position her to immediately get to work.

Ms. Strickland is a highly qualified nominee with the right experience, temperament, and disposition to be a fair-minded District Court judge. The ABA agrees giving her a majority "Well Qualified" rating.

She has spent her entire professional career working in the community in which she will sit. She knows intimately the impact the legal system has on every day Americans.

And she understands that serving as a judge is very different from serving as an advocate.

She is ready and prepared to shift from zealously and effectively representing clients to faithfully applying the law to the facts of a specific case.

I also want to take a quick moment to recognize Ms. Strickland's husband, Greg, and their son, George, who I'm certain are so proud to celebrate this moment.

I enthusiastically support Ms. Strickland's nomination for District Court Judge for the District of New Mexico.

I hope that all of the members of this committee will join me in supporting this highly qualified nominee.

Thank you.