

Luján Remarks:

Mr. Chair,

It's my honor to be before the Judiciary Committee today to introduce Margaret Strickland for consideration to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico in Las Cruces. Ms. Strickland was born and raised in the Southwest and would bring significant legal experience and judicial expertise to the District Court.

Having earned her Juris Doctor from the New York University School of Law, Ms. Strickland has spent the past 15 years practicing law in New Mexico, including before the New Mexico Court of Appeals, New Mexico Supreme Court, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

Ms. Strickland began her legal career at the office of the New Mexico Public Defender in Las Cruces, where she served as the juvenile drug court lawyer and was later promoted to felony defense work.

As a former public defender, she would bring much-needed professional diversity – and perspective – to our federal courts.

In 2011, Ms. Strickland formed her own law firm where she has continued her public service work representing indigent defendants in federal court pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act, and has handled hundreds of cases in the busy Las Cruces Federal District Court.

Ms. Strickland has strong ties to the New Mexico legal community, including being elected by her peers to the Board of New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers, where she served for over a decade in different positions, including as president. In 2018, she was appointed by the Federal District of New Mexico to represent all Criminal Justice Act lawyers as the Panel Representative.

With a proven record of service and leadership, I'm confident that Ms. Strickland will continue to serve all New Mexicans equitably on the District Court once confirmed. She is a highly-qualified nominee, and it's my honor to stand with her today.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.