

Senator Heinrich's Introduction of Matthew Garcia

Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, distinguished members of this Committee,

It is my honor to introduce Matthew Garcia, President Biden's nominee to fill the vacant seat on the U.S. District Court of New Mexico.

Mr. Garcia was born, raised, and built his legal career in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where this District Court seat is based.

An undergraduate and law school alum of the University of New Mexico, Mr. Garcia has cultivated a deep connection with the Land of Enchantment and genuinely cares for his fellow New Mexicans.

I am proud to join my colleague, Senator Lujan, in strongly recommending Mr. Garcia for this judicial nomination.

Mr. Garcia graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelors in Economics from the University of New Mexico.

He then conducted research at the Helsinki School of Economics in Finland while on a Fulbright Scholarship.

And he received his Master's in Public Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Mr. Garcia then returned home to obtain his Juris Doctorate from the University of New Mexico School of Law.

After law school, Mr. Garcia built his legal practice as a civil litigator, representing individuals in federal and state courts throughout the State of New Mexico.

Mr. Garcia also has significant appellant experience, in both state and federal courts.

He has also served as an adjunct professor at the UNM Law School and as a member of the Volunteer Attorney Pool for both the state and federal trial courts.

Mr. Garcia left private practice for public service when he joined the Office of New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham as General Counsel from 2019 to 2020, and as Chief of Staff from 2020 to 2022.

Mr. Garcia's service within the New Mexico legal community has led to his appointment on a number of important judicial committees and positions of authority.

The United States District Court has appointed -- and twice re-appointed -- Mr. Garcia to New Mexico's Magistrate Judge Selection Panel.

He is a member of the New Mexico Disciplinary Board Hearing Committee, where he assists in addressing allegations of misconduct and ethical violations by members of the New Mexico State Bar.

Mr. Garcia has also been appointed to a number of panels of the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico.

Mr. Garcia's reputation within the legal community and the New Mexico community at-large is strong.

He is well regarded for the respect he shows to the rule of law, the practice of law, and the role of our judicial branch in resolving conflicts within the parameters of the law.

I am confident that Mr. Garcia will continue a proud legacy of fair and committed federal judges in New Mexico.

The broad bipartisan letters this committee has received in support of Mr. Garcia's nomination share this same confidence.

I would encourage all of the members of this Committee to support Mr. Garcia's confirmation.

Thank you.