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Dear Friends,

Like you, I have dedicated my life to fulfilling the values that we hold dear – democratic values – values that our parents and grandparents taught us like respect, dignity, hard work and justice.

In a few weeks, we will each cast our vote in the Democratic primary for the New Mexico Court of Appeals. As an attorney, a lifelong Democrat, and one who has fought for justice and equity, I am proud to endorse Judge Linda Vanzi for this important position.

I have known Judge Vanzi for years. She was a distinguished lawyer and is now a respected judge. As a woman of color, she has stood shoulder to shoulder with us in the fights that have defined our generation. She has earned our support through a lifetime of service, and commitment, to the values we cherish.

I cannot stay silent, however, on an aspect of this campaign that hurts me to the core. And that is the campaign of innuendo and whispers facing Judge Vanzi's campaign. This whisper campaign has brought the ugly head of racism into this election. This type of mudslinging has no place in the world we hope to create. Judge Vanzi deserves what all of us have fought for – to be judged on our merits.

I implore all of you – whether you support one candidate or another – keep this debate on the issues and qualifications of the candidates and stand up against racism, no matter what its form.

Sincerely

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