

GERARDO A. FLORES

June 26, 2022

Honorable Dick Durbin
Chair
Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Puerto Rico Court of Appeals Judge Gina Mendez Miro

Dear Senator Durbin:

Please accept this letter in support of the nomination of Judge Gina Méndez Miró to the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. My name is Gerardo A. Flores, I am an attorney in private practice, Adjunct Professor at the University of Puerto Rico School of Law, and I serve as a member of the Puerto Rico Supreme Court's Bar Review Board. Between 2013 and 2021, I sat as a judge of the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals.

I fully and wholeheartedly support the nomination of Judge Méndez Miró, an exceptional legal professional that possesses the qualifications, character, talent, experience, and commitment to justice that we aspire for all members of the federal bench. Judge Méndez Miró has always stood out in a group of peers that are part of what I consider to be a generation of particularly gifted

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lawyers with a superior dedication to public service, ethics, and making significant contributions to the integrity of our legal system.

Judge Méndez Miró, with whom I coincided at the University of Puerto Rico School of Law, is endowed with extraordinary qualifications and a wide range of experience as a jurist, including as a Human Resources Director, litigator, Director of Judicial Programs, General Counsel and Director of Legal Affairs of Office of Courts Administration, Chief of Staff for the President of the Senate, and as a Judge in the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals.

During my tenure as an appellate court judge, I had the opportunity to collaborate with Judge Méndez Miró and witnessed firsthand her passion for justice, sense of duty and, most importantly, her extraordinary legal mind. Judge Méndez Miró's meticulous and well-reasoned judicial opinions are a testament to her deep understanding of the law, the unbiased and disciplined way in which she examines the facts and the controversies before her, and the rigorous and contemplative way in which she applies the law and adjudicates the issues. Even in those instances in which some of us judges held valid yet opposing viewpoints on the merits and interpretations of controversies before us and proposed differing resolutions, Judge Méndez Miró was always guided by the notion that a fair and impartial decision is based, first and foremost, on the serious and thorough study and application of the law and the rules to promote fair resolutions of complex controversies and the consistency, reliability, and credibility that our judicial system requires.

Judge Méndez Miró is, without a doubt, a mature legal scholar whose knowledge, discipline and experience would allow her to

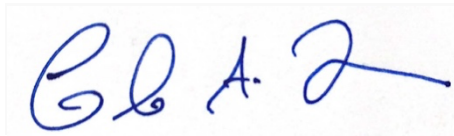
seamlessly transition from the state to the federal courts. While she is obviously passionate about the law and her work in service to justice, Judge Méndez Miró has always shown to be objective and clear-headed, studious, and highly analytical. As such, her ability to preside over a courtroom and adjudicate controversies under the various sets of rules that apply to U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico would not present any challenges to that transition and I foresee that she would embrace them with the skill, moral and intellectual integrity that have distinguished her throughout her career.

Moreover, Judge Méndez Miró is also a gifted communicator that has always shown a great ability to listen with patience and discernment, promote consensus, and build productive relationships with those around her. I consider that a remarkable character trait possessed by Judge Méndez Miró that significantly contributes to her legal and judicial acumen is the understanding that, while not everyone will be entitled to a legal remedy, they are entitled to interact with a judicial system that treats them with respect, seriousness, and impartiality.

Many things can be said about Judge Méndez Miró in addition to her work as a dedicated jurist and tireless public servant with extraordinary insight that would make her an outstanding district judge. She is also an exceptional mother and spouse, a kindhearted dog person, and a prolific reader and lover of literature and the arts. Her historic confirmation would continue in the tradition of the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico of appointing highly qualified individuals at the top of their profession and of impeccable character and reputation, but it will also make an incredibly significant contribution to representation

in our judicial system, reminding our society that justice is a place for everyone.

I humbly and strongly encourage the positive evaluation and confirmation of Judge Gina Méndez Miró to the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information and thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G.A.F.", enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

Gerardo A. Flores, Esq.