



Anabelle Rodríguez Rodríguez
Associate Justice, Retired
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Supreme Court
San Juan, Puerto Rico

July 1st, 2022

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

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Confirmation of Judge Gina R. Méndez-Miró to the U.S. District Court

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write to enthusiastically support and urge you to confirm Judge Gina R. Méndez-Miró as District Court Judge for the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. I make this recommendation in my capacity as former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico (2004-2020), former Secretary of Justice of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (2001-2004), former Solicitor General of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (1991-1992), an attorney for almost forty years, and as a concerned citizen that wishes to promote judicial appointments to the federal judiciary of qualified candidates that are committed to fairness and equal justice for all.

Judge Méndez-Miró's stellar credentials and varied legal experience make her an exceptional candidate to serve on the federal judiciary, as evidenced by her unanimous confirmation by the Puerto Rico Senate in 2016, her work for nearly six years as an Appellate Judge at the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals and her professional experiences both in private practice and public service.

I first met Ms. Méndez-Miró while she was working as a senior associate at one of Puerto Rico's top law firms, O'Neill & Borges. At that time, and after working for over five years in private practice with the prospect of becoming a junior partner in her law firm, she was weighing whether to accept an offer to join the Department of Justice of Puerto Rico, thus abandoning a promising career in private practice to become a public servant and wanted my advice. She chose to go into the public sector, serving as Assistant Attorney General for Human Resources at the Puerto Rico Department of Justice. There, she was known as a hard working attorney with impressive leadership skills. Having served at the Department myself, I know how difficult it can be to be the head of the Office of Human Resources and from there, implement needed reforms to advance the Secretary's administrative policy. I know that her people skills and strategic thinking were important tools in achieving those goals at the Department. In addition, I know that she provided sound legal counsel to the Secretary regarding compliance with state and federal laws. She also served as an effective liaison between the District Attorneys and the Secretary of Justice regarding important legal and policy issues.

After that, she continued her track in public service at the Puerto Rico Judicial Branch, specifically, at the Office of Legal Affairs of the Courts Administration. The Chief Justice at the time, Federico Hernández Denton always spoke highly of Judge Méndez-Miró's work. She was an indispensable in the development and implementation of two important initiatives for the Judicial Branch, to wit: the Drug Courts, and the Specialized Domestic Violence Courts. From my experience both at the Judicial Branch and at the Department of Justice, I know of the importance of those initiatives in the administration of justice, and the collaboration necessary to ensure that justice be served adequately for the benefit of all citizens, especially the most disadvantaged. Furthermore, I can also speak to the importance of the Office of Legal Affairs, where she eventually became the General Counsel. This is an office where the most sensitive and complex legal issues for the Judicial Branch are dealt with; and where command of both state and federal law is necessary, written, and oral communication skills are essential, as well as an understanding of the intricacies of the court's structure.

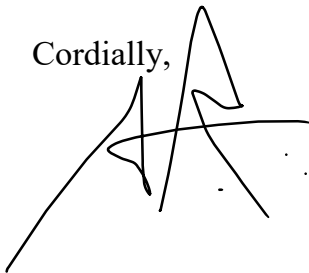
Finally, a few thoughts on my assessment of her judicial work at the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals. As a sitting Justice of the Supreme Court, I reviewed numerous decisions she authored. Her work was impeccable, she writes clearly and persuasively, applies the law to the facts in a straightforward manner, has a keen intellect and demonstrates command of the legal issues involved. Issues that involved a myriad of civil and criminal cases involving controversies that require familiarity and knowledge not only of Puerto Rico law but also federal law. From the judgments rendered, one can conclude that she is an

impartial adjudicator, and is guided by the applicable standards of review, precedents, and the rule of law. She is respectful to the court below as well as to the parties in the case.

Though we do not always agree on certain legal controversies, debating Gina on the law is fun, it's challenging and always an enriching experience. Her legal arguments and her intellect, combined with the occasional literary reference make her a unique jurist. She is passionate about the law and loves being a judge. Not only is she an excellent attorney and judge, but she is also a caring and warm person, who cares about others, is loyal and her moral compass is unmatched.

In sum, Judge Méndez Miró has served with distinction on the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals and as an attorney in all three branches of government. She has earned a reputation as a fair, hard-working and intelligent jurist. Therefore, I am proud that she will fill the vacancy left by my friend, Judge Carmen Consuelo Cerezo, at the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, and I urge you to honor Judge Cerezo's legacy by confirming another remarkable woman to that bench.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Anabelle Rodríguez Rodríguez', written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Anabelle Rodríguez Rodríguez