

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Regina Rodriguez, Esq.

CC: Senator Michael Bennet and Senator John Hickenlooper

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

Regina Rodriguez, Esq. (Gina), who has been recommended by Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper as a candidate for the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, is an extraordinary judicial choice given her track record of overcoming great odds to become an accomplished attorney and a recognized civil rights champion in our community. Gina serves on the board of directors of the DSST Public Schools. Our mission is to transform urban public education by eliminating educational inequity and preparing all students for success in college and the 21st century.

In these difficult times of COVID, economic collapse and racial injustice, the DSST Board has been challenged with life-impacting decisions for our students and families, who are primarily diverse and financially vulnerable. In all of our deliberations, Gina has brought the wisdom of a multi-racial woman, whose life story speaks to the challenges of finding success when few doors are open to you. Married to a black man, Arnold Woods, she herself is shepherding her children to overcome many obstacles in school and society.

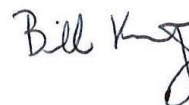
Throughout her career, her commitment to the community has been front and center. She has founded and served on non-profit boards that span services for pre-school children, middle school and high school students and Colorado higher education. The pro bono legal work she has done to represent unaccompanied, undocumented minors abandoned by their parents, who were navigating the courts, speaks to her fundamental commitment to fairness and opportunity for all.

As the daughter of a mother who endured the indignity of a Japanese internment camp as a young child, and a Latino father, who surprisingly rose through the ranks of high school football coaching to achieve the distinction of serving as an assistant coach in the NFL, Gina understands the promise of this country and the work yet to be done. These life experiences have shaped her unwavering commitment to eliminating the achievement gap in education and advancing diversity and inclusion in all aspects of community life.

Gina's multi-racial life experiences, coupled with her values-driven approach to advance civil rights in her work and community, make her a stellar future jurist. We urge you to nominate Ms. Rodriguez to the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado.



Gloria A. Zamora
Board Chair



Bill Kurtz
CEO