

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: Official Endorsement of Regina Rodriguez for the United States District Court for the District of Colorado

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The Colorado Sam Cary Bar Association (“SCBA”) is excited to endorse judicial candidate Regina Rodriguez for the U. S. District Court for the District of Colorado Judgeship. The Sam Cary Bar Association consists of attorneys who have sworn to support the Constitutions of the United States and Colorado, and to use our knowledge of the law for the improvement of society and the legal system. As Black attorneys, we understand how the systemic inequities in our legal system disproportionately and negatively impact Black lives and communities throughout the United States. Based on Ms. Rodriguez’s exemplary career, dedication to the people of the State of Colorado, enthusiasm for the law, and commitment to historically disadvantaged communities, we believe she is the best candidate for the position of U. S. District Court for the District of Colorado Judge.

Our SCBA Judiciary Committee undertakes a careful review of candidates we seek to endorse to ensure that individuals have impeccable credentials, proper temperament and character, commitment to maintaining the highest standards of the legal profession and most importantly, a history of ensuring equal access to justice, are promoted to these trusted positions. We also ensure that the candidates for endorsement meet the spirit of our organizational goals and values, which include a number of criteria such as professional qualifications and a demonstrated commitment to the advancement of minority communities. The seven criteria at the forefront were:

1. Diversity of legal professional experiences;
2. Knowledge of the District's demographics;
3. Diversity and degree of community service experiences;
4. Awareness of minority groups' perception of judicial district's court systems;
5. Knowledge and level of cultural competence;
6. Understanding the impact of implicit bias on underrepresented and minority communities; and,
7. Commitment to ensuring litigants are respected and heard.

Ms. Rodriguez has an extensive commitment to under-represented and historically disadvantaged groups. Service to her community, to the less fortunate, and to anyone who needs help are the people to whom Ms. Rodriguez is drawn. She is dedicated to assist from the disenfranchised to Big Business without differentiation of race, color or social class. Ms. Rodriguez has spent much of her time volunteering on school Boards, Boards for gangs and at-risk youth, publishing articles and presenting in Colorado Legal Education and community events developed to educate and assist disadvantaged groups. She has dedicated the majority of her legal career to improving the community through educating the public and service, in her attempt to make justice equal for all. Part of what distinguishes Ms. Rodriguez is that she is dedicated to righting injustice associated with anyone, especially with diverse and underrepresented groups. In support of Ms. Rodriguez's service, she has received numerous awards including Girl Scouts of Colorado Women of Distinction, Department of Justice Service Award, Overall Litigator, and Top Latino Lawyer, which not only speaks to her involvement but to the lives she has changed.

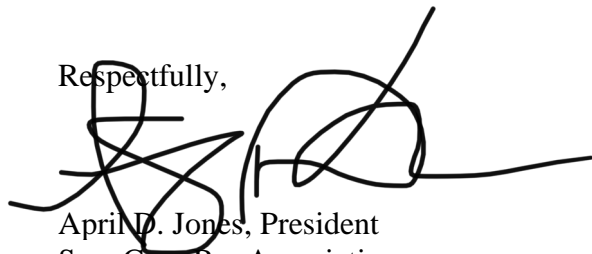
Ms. Rodriguez is keenly aware of the professionalism, decorum and work ethic required to be a U. S. District Court Judge. Ms. Rodriguez has been a Partner in litigation firms since 2002. She has been a litigator her entire career and an expert in all aspects of state and federal trials. Ms. Rodriguez is a former Legal Instructor, Mediator and Deputy General Counsel. As a member of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Ms. Rodriguez was Chief of the Civil Division. Ms. Rodriguez's work in the U. S. Attorney's Office, her 20+ years of legal experience, coupled with her many years of work as a litigation Partner, speaks volumes to her commitment, knowledge and professionalism.

In making the decision to endorse Ms. Rodriguez, SCBA considered her ability to identify and comprehend the impact of implicit bias on African-Americans and minorities in the state of Colorado. Ms. Rodriguez's appreciation of social justice issues and her deep commitment to access to justice have been consistent and steady throughout her distinguished career. She is committed to educating everyone about implicit bias, the need for diversity and the positive effects of inclusiveness, and fairness within the legal system, as well as speaking and publishing to provide legal knowledge. Ms. Rodriguez is a member of the Hispanic National Bar, is a member of the Colorado Supreme Court Nominating Commission, an American College of Trial Lawyers Fellow, a member of the Colorado Women's Bar Association and Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and a member of many Boards from Girl Scouts to Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, which supports our position that she is the best candidate for the U. S. District Court for the District of Colorado Judgeship.

It is the considered opinion of the SCBA that Regina Rodriguez possesses the professional qualifications, skills, experience, and temperament for this position, and that she

would be a great addition and asset to the U. S. District Court bench. As a judge, Ms. Rodriguez will proudly serve the state of Colorado and be dedicated, fair, informed, an ally to her coworkers and a champion for justice. For these reasons, the SCBA is proud to endorse Regina Rodriguez for the position of Judicial Officer for the U. S. District Court for the District of Colorado.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'April D. Jones', written over a horizontal line.

April D. Jones, President
Sam Cary Bar Association