



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: Letter in Support of Regina Rodriguez for the United States District Court for the District of Colorado

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am delighted to submit this letter of unequivocal support for Regina Rodriguez to be a judge on the United States District Court for the District of Colorado. Ms. Rodriguez has been a significant contributor to the Colorado community for decades and has been deeply involved in civil rights and racial justice work. Her integrity, experience, and qualifications make her imminently qualified to serve on our federal bench, and our community will be better with Regina on the federal bench.

The Colorado Lawyers Committee is a nonpartisan consortium of almost 80 Colorado law firms dedicated to providing and increasing opportunities for children, the poor, and other disadvantaged communities through education, advocacy, negotiation, and litigation. For more than 42 years, lawyers and others who have donated their time through the Colorado Lawyers Committee have focused primarily on systemic legal changes to benefit disadvantaged communities.

Ms. Rodriguez's involvement with the Colorado Lawyers Committee includes her service as the Co-Chair of the CLC Racial Justice Task Force and the Chair of its Education Subcommittee. Ms. Rodriguez was selected to be Co-Chair of this important Task Force because of the abiding respect and leadership she has in the legal community here in Colorado. Ms. Rodriguez also has served on the Colorado Lawyers Committee project serving immigrant communities and asylum seekers preparing for credible fear interviews and other immigration proceedings.

While we are aware of criticism from groups outside of Colorado that Ms. Rodriguez spent part of her career at private law firms, such criticism fails to understand the pro bono model we have here in Colorado and at the Colorado Lawyers Committee in particular. The Lawyers Committee is a consortium of private law firms where lawyers in private practice committed more than 22,000 hours of pro bono service to marginalized communities in the last few years alone. Unlike many other states, the private bar here in Colorado serves our disadvantaged communities in a substantial and meaningful way through civil rights and other education and advocacy work.

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Senators Durbin and Grassley

April 14, 2021

Page Two

Ms. Rodriguez's career exemplifies that type of service. In 2011, Ms. Rodriguez served as lead counsel for the Colorado Latino Forum and the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association in a multi-week congressional re-districting trial. She has represented a detained inmate in constitutional challenges arising from the failure to provide mental health care and has also advocated on behalf of children detained at the border in immigration and asylum proceedings. Ms. Rodriguez was a founding Board Member of Colorado Youth at Risk, a nonprofit dedicated to serving and mentoring marginalized young people in Colorado. She served on the Board of Directors for a Montessori and early head start school that served 90% children in poverty. She has worked to stop gang violence, served as a Commissioner on the Colorado Commission for Higher Education, and served on the Board of Directors of our partner specialty bar association, the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association.

I could go on with Mr. Rodriguez's many and diverse contributions to our Colorado community, but suffice to say that Regina has been a mentor and leader in our bar for several decades. Her list of honors is long, but it is more important to understand the quality of her character. There can be no dispute that she cares deeply about our community and is an outstanding lawyer. Having achieved so much and done such critical work for disadvantaged communities over her life and career, Ms. Rodriguez should not be penalized for achieving the heights at several law firms. Indeed, it would be a cruel irony to impose new roadblocks for a multi-racial woman of color who has been a leader in our legal community for more than two decades.

The communities we serve owe a lot to Ms. Rodriguez. She will make an excellent judge on the United States District Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Constance C. Talmage". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Constance C. Talmage, Esq.
Executive Director