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July 8, 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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

As criminal defense attorneys practicing before the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico we write in support of Maria Antongiorgi-Jordan, Clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, to fill one of the three openings to the seat of United States District Judge.

For the past decade, Ms. Antongiorgi-Jordan has served the court in different roles. She served as member of the District Court Examination Committee (“DEC”) with Ms. Maldonado Rodríguez, preparing the bar examination questions for applicants. During the DEC meetings Ms. Antongiorgi-Jordan displayed ample legal knowledge, a keen legal mind and the ability to engage in complex discussions in a wide range of topics, particularly related to ethics.

When the district court called upon civil practitioners to represent indigent defendants in criminal cases, Ms. Antongiorgi-Jordan volunteered and became part

of the criminal bar. Both Ms. Maldonado Rodríguez and Ms. Lizarribar participated in cases with her. She demonstrated sympathy, empathy, compassion and commitment to equal justice under the law. Although it was not her area of practice, she studied, prepared and excelled at representing indigent defendants before the court.

As Clerk of the United States District Court, Ms. Antongiorgi-Jordan has continued to display her commitment to equal justice under the law. She has an open-door policy for CJA panel members and has instilled in her staff her sense of commitment towards assisting CJA panel members to promote better representation of indigent defendants. During her tenure as Clerk of the Court she has arranged for continuous legal education seminars and has provided tools for CJA panel attorneys to have better access to their clients.

During the pandemic, she took upon the titanic effort to provide indigent defendants with expedited access to their attorneys, to promote efficiency in court proceedings and to ensure the safety of the staff, attorneys, and the general public.

Ms. Antongiorgi-Jordan's familiarity with the federal court system and with the rules and procedures of the federal court, paired with her qualities and competence, make her an ideal candidate for the federal judiciary. Having known Ms. Antongiorgi-Jordan's trajectory for the past decade we can attest to her personal attributes of good moral character, emotional stability, matureness and capacity for deliberateness and decisiveness which are qualities necessary for the successful performance of judicial duties.

We are available for any further information that this Committee may need.

Sincerely yours,

Lydia Lizarribar

Laura Maldonado Rodriguez