

July 11, 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: Former and Current Attorneys from the Office of Legal Affairs
in Support of the Confirmation of Hon. Gina R. Méndez-Miró as
United States District Court Judge for the District of Puerto Rico**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

We come together before you to express our categorical support to the confirmation of Judge Gina R. Méndez-Miró to serve as a U.S. District Judge on the United States Court for the District of Puerto Rico. We, the undersigned, worked under the supervision of Judge Méndez during her tenure as General Counsel and Director of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Office of Court Administration of the Judicial Branch of Puerto Rico.

As Director of the Office of Legal Affairs, Judge Méndez-Miró was exceptional. This office handles a full range of administrative and legal matters of the Judicial Branch, i.e., evaluation of public contracts, legal representation of the Judicial Branch in several judicial and administrative forums, and the disciplinary investigations related to ethics and conduct of all personnel and judges, among others critical and important matters. It is a challenging office and on many occasions Judge Méndez-Miró dealt with complex cases of public interest. She consistently demonstrated her keen legal mind and professionalism in each of the cases she managed.

During our tenure at the Office of Legal Affairs, we had the opportunity to work closely with Judge Méndez-Miró on a host of some of the most significant and contested issues impacting the Judicial Branch of Puerto Rico at the time. We served as co-counsel on cases filed in the trial court, the Commission of Judicial Discipline of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico and administrative agencies like the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission or the Puerto Rico Department of Labor, and as legal advisors on the review of complex technology and services contracts as well as the analysis of matters in diverse areas of the law. Furthermore, we must highlight that as part of our duties at the Office of Legal Affairs, we often received and managed citizens who wished to file ethical complaints against Judicial Branch personnel, including judges. On many occasions, the people who came to the office were upset, sad, and felt let down by the judicial system. Judge

Méndez-Miró always listened and showed empathy, and the utmost respect to all the people who visited the office. She trained us to do the same.

In addition, Judge Méndez-Miró handled the investigations and disciplinary proceedings against the judges with integrity, responsibility, and urgency. She never allowed external factors or public opinion to influence the procedures or her decisions. We learned a lot from her legal strategies and from her litigation style. As a result, the Office of Legal Affairs achieved great victories in favor of the public confidence in the judiciary. Under Judge Méndez-Miró's leadership, several judges who violated the Code of Judicial Ethics were sanctioned. That is one of the many reasons why we understand that she is an extremely prepared judge, because she has an exceptional understanding of judicial ethics like very few others. Throughout our experience we came to know Judge Méndez-Miró as someone of exceptional legal rigor and unimpeachable character who addressed her work with great care and seriousness. Her approach to legal disputes was always with the utmost respect for all parties, institutions, and the rule of law, placing the law, ethics, and integrity above all, without fear of favor. That is why to this day we have great respect for her legal abilities, her work ethic, and her competence as a jurist.

Moreover, all of us are deeply grateful for her providing us with a professional experience which not only made us grow as attorneys, but as human beings. To this day, some of our most beloved friends are those who we met at this office, and we always fondly remember our experiences working together. Judge Méndez-Miró brought us together and passed on important lessons that we still put in practice today. She always sought our opinion and respected our insights, recognized and celebrated our work and gave us ample opportunities to expand our professional experiences.

As attorneys who worked on judicial ethics cases, we know that judicial temperament is crucial to being able to serve as a judge and to deliver justice. We have no doubt that Judge Méndez-Miró has the appropriate temperament to serve as a judge and she has demonstrated it time and again. We witnessed Judge Méndez-Miró's unwavering dedication to the rule of law, her willingness to examine different points of views fairly, and her commitment to improving the justice system. We further attest to her impressive knowledge of law and deep commitment to service and are confident that she is fully capable of serving as Judge in the federal judiciary.

In sum, based on our experience, we are convinced that Judge Méndez-Miró will continue to be an outstanding judge and public servant. We wholeheartedly support her nomination to serve as United States District Court Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,

/s/ Julia María Badillo Lozano

/s/ Jeannette Pietri Nuñez

/s/ Zaira Z. Girón Anadón

/s/ Eric J. Salas López

/s/ Cristina Guerra Cáceres

/s/ Marisela Vázquez Marrero

/s/ Germarie Méndez Negrón