



Inter American University of Puerto Rico
School of Law
Office of the Dean

July 1, 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: LETTER ENDORSING THE CONFIRMATION OF HON. MARIA ANTONGIORGI AS
UNITES STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

As Dean of the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Law, I am pleased to write this letter in support of María Antongiorgi's confirmation for the position of District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico. María is extremely qualified and is well respected within the legal community.

I have known María for over 25 years. I met her when she was a law student at this institution in 1989. She was an excellent student, excelling in all litigation courses, some of which I taught. She had great analytical skills, was always prepared, was very diligent and hard working. I was very impressed with María at that time, and I have followed her professional career which has been similarly impressive. I have invited her to join our faculty, which hopefully she will be doing in the near future.

María is uniquely qualified for the position of District Judge, as very few possess the wealth of experience she will bring to the bench. Regarded as one of the best employment attorneys in Puerto Rico, as federal judge Daniel Dominguez would say, María has over 23 years of experience in civil law and litigation. Over time, Maria developed expertise in complex litigation and multi-plaintiffs' cases. Some of her cases have been precedent setting in Puerto Rico. She also has some experience in federal criminal defense work, providing criminal defense to indigent defendants in federal court.

In 2018, María joined District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. As Clerk of Court, María is a member of all Court committees and is responsible for the court's administration. She knows the Court inside out. Her knowledge of the judiciary guidelines and procedures, coupled with her vast experience in civil and criminal law, places her in a unique position to hit the ground running if appointed to the federal bench.

María also has an exemplary reputation. She is known for her in-depth knowledge of the law, her keen intellect, and a mature balanced character. I cannot think of a better combination of qualities for a judicial officer. These characteristics made her worthy of being appointed by the District Court to two (2) Merit Selection Panels for the Reappointment of Magistrate Judges Vélez-Rivé and McGiverin, one of the highest honors a practicing attorney can receive.

Without a doubt, Maria has all the credentials, experience, and wisdom to serve on the federal bench. I have no doubt that if appointed, she would be an excellent judge. I strongly recommend her for the confirmation of United States District Judge.

Cordially,



Julio E. Fontanet Maldonado, PhD
Dean