

June 18th, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

I wish to highly recommend Ana Reyes for a position as a district judge in the Washington, D.C. District Court. I have known Ana Reyes for twenty-five years, since she was a young college graduate working on the campaign to Stop Prop. 209. A referendum in California, to remove affirmative action from California statutes.

The Feminist Majority Foundation (FMF) organized a grass roots campaign against it. Ana, my daughter Camila and I, with other young FMF volunteers, worked that summer and fall organizing young people and others to vote against the measure. I witnessed Ana's quiet leadership in organizing different events like rallies, marches and dinners.

Ana has worked her entire life for civil rights. Ana attended law school and after graduating from law school, continued to volunteer and work with the FMF on issues and campaigns: to support women in Afghanistan, organized women on college campuses on civil rights initiatives, eliminate violence against women, support refugees and the rights of immigrants, and advocate on behalf of LGBTQ+ individuals.

We were very fortunate when Ana agreed to join our Board of FMF in 2014. Ana has guided our board when we were confronted with difficult situations and hard decisions with her intelligence, maturity, temperate personality and strategic thinking. Ana has the amazing ability to analyze complicated situations and recommend reasonable and effective solutions, always with compassion and fair play. She has been an important, diverse voice on the FMF board, as we face new challenges that call for new solutions to old problems.

Ana's recent legal successes have included protecting individuals fleeing gang violence from Central America; invalidating a regulation that barred individuals crossing the Mexican border from receiving asylum. Among many other achievements, successfully arguing in courts that the Remain-In-Mexico policy violates international law.

Ana understands from her own background and her legal work the immigrant experience, and she works hard to help improve it. The great social justice movements in our country happen when people come together, organize and take action at the grassroots level. But, to ensure that the courts respect those movements and the changes they create, we also need judges who are committed to the cause of social justice. Based on my many years of experience working with her, I know Ana will be that kind of judge.

I also believe that Latinos do not want a judge who just happens to be Latino but does not represent the interests of the Latino community. The same thing applies to women and LGBTQ+ individuals. Ana is the kind of judge that everyone needs. Even with my 60 years of experience, I can honestly say that I have learned from Ana.

Ana is a gifted and unique individual. Her personal experiences on the ground and in the courts combined with her personality are human attributes I believe qualify her for a judge. I am proud and honored to recommend her to the federal judiciary. ¡Sí se Puede!

Lastly, I wish to thank you, Senator Durbin for all of the years of service protecting and fighting for the rights of “all” working families rights, especially those who needed representation but were voiceless.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dolores C. Huerta".

Dolores Huerta

President, Dolores Huerta Foundation

Cofounder, United Farm Workers

P.S, As I noted, I am the cofounder of the United Farm Workers with Cesar Chavez and a founding board member of the Feminist Majority Foundation. I am also a Board member of People for the American Way, Transformative Justice Coalition and Equality California.

I am also the recipient of the Medal of Freedom award from President Obama, the highest civilian award in our country. The Dolores Huerta Foundation is active in three different counties in California and focuses on civic participation, education, youth development and health issues.