

March 16, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
211 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Nancy L. Maldonado, nominee for United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee members,

It is my honor and privilege to provide information relating to the nomination of United States District Court Judge Nancy Maldonado of the Northern District of Illinois to serve as circuit judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

I am a peace officer in the state of Illinois with over 25 years of law enforcement experience. I had the pleasure of working closely with Judge Maldonado when she served as a member of the Illinois State Police Merit Board from 2019 to 2022. As members of a team tasked with reviewing the background investigations of applicants interested in a law enforcement career, we met to examine documentation and subsequently conducted interviews to assess each candidate's suitability for progressing to the next phase in the hiring process. During our interactions, Judge Maldonado was always very respectful of my viewpoints and pleasant to be around. She maintained a steady demeanor, regardless of the long hours worked, while carrying herself with the perfect balance of confidence, patience, humility, and grace. Furthermore, I observed a plethora of various other attributes including honesty, impartiality, intelligence, and rationality, as well as a deep appreciation for the need to maintain high professional and ethical standards.

Judge Maldonado displayed a consummate professionalism that impressed me from the first day we met and throughout our time working together. She was insightful and fair in her assessment and treatment of others, and maintained a composed demeanor during every meeting, background review and applicant interview. Her approach to the background review process was thorough and her commitment to making the right recommendation based on the totality of the available information was evident. Ms. Maldonado recognized gaps in information and easily transitioned to more probing follow-up questions as necessary, while preserving the candidate's dignity. She is a great example of someone who respects others' points of view and weighs all sides in order to come to a fair and equitable conclusion.

There is no doubt in my mind that Judge Maldonado is a person of the highest integrity and character with an even temperament, positive attitude, and a passion for serving justice. We need more positive leaders in this world who possess the character, courage, and grit to serve with integrity while making fair and impartial determinations, and Judge Maldonado is such a person. Her many outstanding personal and professional qualities which make her an extraordinary human being, will also make her an exceptional Circuit Judge, and I strongly support her nomination. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Isaiah Vega