



National Council of Jewish Women

March 18, 2024

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the 210,000 advocates of National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), I am writing in strong support of the confirmation of Judge Nancy Maldonado to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Currently a judge on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Judge Maldonado has dedicated her career to advancing the cause of equal justice for all. Prior to her confirmation to the district court in 2022, she was a partner at Miner, Barnhill & Galland where she specialized in employment discrimination and other civil rights cases. Among successes during her time at the law firm, she won an important settlement for seasonal farmworkers by bringing a class action case challenging violations of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act. In addition, a case she brought challenging a racially discriminatory tax assessment plan that cost low-income Cook County residents to pay significantly higher property taxes resulted in major reforms to the tax assessments in this community.

Judge Maldonado graduated from Harvard College and Columbia Law School where she was a Harlan Fiske Stone scholar. After law school she clerked for Judge Rubén Castillo of the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. During her time at Miner, Barnhill & Galland, she also served the State of Illinois: In 2019, Governor J.B. Pritzker appointed her to the Illinois State Police Merit Board and, in 2021, the Illinois Attorney General appointed her to serve as a Special Assistant Attorney General investigating consumer fraud. As a private citizen, Judge Maldonado has served on several boards in her community, including the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Apna Ghar (Our House), a non-profit organization that seeks to end gender violence.

NCJW has long believed that diversity on the federal judiciary not only serves to build public trust in the courts but also advances the cause of equal justice. Judge Maldonado, who is the first Hispanic woman to serve on the Northern District Court of Illinois, would be the first Latina to serve on the Seventh Circuit. In addition, her professional experience in workers and civil rights law would add important professional diversity to the court to which she is nominated. The confirmation of Judge Maldonado would contribute to a federal judiciary that reflects our nation.



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The combination of Judge Maldonado's background, experience, and commitment to justice and truth are in line with Judaism's belief in a judiciary that is committed to justice and truth, the foundations on which everything else in our society must be built. It is clear to NCJW that Judge Nancy Maldonado would be an excellent addition to the Seventh Circuit and we urge her swift confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jody Rabhan', is positioned above the typed name.

Jody Rabhan
Chief Policy Officer
National Council of Jewish Women