

**LETTER FROM COLLEAGUES
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SENATE OF PUERTO RICO**

July 7, 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

Confirmation of Judge Gina R. Méndez-Miró to the U.S. District Court

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The undersigned had the privilege of serving under Judge Gina R. Méndez-Miró at the Puerto Rico Senate while she was Chief of Staff to the President, Eduardo Bhatia. We come from different backgrounds and, after our tenure at the Puerto Rico legislature, our professional interests and experiences vary significantly. We are law firm associates, attorneys in the private practice, and current and former government officials. However, we are united by the high esteem and respect we hold for Judge Méndez-Miró after working with her at the Legislative Branch. We come together to express our strong support for her confirmation to the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico and urge the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate to confirm her without delay.

During the four years she was Chief of Staff to the President of the Senate, we all worked closely with her. Most of us had already served in different capacities at the legislature and were familiar with the dynamics inherent to that branch of government. Judge Méndez Miró had not and, as such, was new to the subtleties and complexities of the law-making political process. She faced such challenges unwaveringly, delving eagerly into the legislative process, and humbly seeking counsel and advise from many, including those of us that, while younger, had more experience than her in this area.

During that time, we witnessed a superbly intelligent and hardworking attorney, whose approach to the law –whether addressing administrative matters or policy issues— was admirable. We worked together on some of the administration’s most important legislative efforts, such as the adoption of a new Civil Code and the criminal justice, education, and energy reforms, among others. In each endeavor, Judge Méndez-Miró promoted critical thinking and was eager to listen to our insights and opinions and seek out our recommendations.

During our mission to facilitate the President of the Senate’s policy agenda, we witnessed her interactions with others and her impressive capacity to reach across the aisle and serve as an arbiter when compromises were necessary. Further, we saw first-hand Judge Méndez-Miró’s impeccable work ethic, her respect for the law, her sense of fairness and her remarkable leadership abilities. She conducted herself with professionalism, grace, and integrity. In true form, she treated everyone, from law enforcement personnel in charge of the Senate President’s security detail, legislators and their staff to maintenance servicers, with the outmost respect. Judge Méndez-Miró was always honorable and fair-minded, all essential qualities for a judge. That is why we were not surprised when she was unanimously confirmed by the Puerto Rico Senate to a judgeship at the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals. It was a validation of her credentials, character, professionalism, and her flawless work at the Senate.

Lastly, we highlight who Judge Méndez-Miró is as a person and the influence she has had in our lives and professional development. Working for her was an inspiring and enriching experience. She demanded excellence from herself and every member of her staff, celebrating and congratulating us for our achievements and admittedly, making us learn from our mistakes. Beyond an effective and demanding supervisor, we had in her a supportive and thoughtful boss who always had our back during complicated personal and professional situations. She gave us advice and encouraged and assisted us in reaching our fullest potential. Judge Méndez-Miró is a magnificent mentor and looks after us beyond our tenure at the Puerto Rico Senate, including providing some of us with recommendations and advice on our career moves. In the end, we learned from her, with her and we know she learned from us.

In sum, we have come to know and respect Judge Méndez-Miró, not only for her impressive credentials—having served impeccably as an attorney in all three branches of government as well as in private practice in one of Puerto Rico’s top law firms— but also for her presence, intellect, and decency. She has become a wonderful judge as is reflected by her judicial work at the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals for nearly six years. From our personal experience, as well as from a review of her record as a judge, we have no doubt she will continue to treat each litigant with respect, conscious that judicial decisions affect the lives of those before the court, and that she will apply the law faithfully and impartially.

Judge Méndez-Miró is an extraordinary judge, attorney and above all, a remarkable woman who is eminently qualified to serve in the federal judiciary. Based on our experience working with her, we believe that she will make an excellent addition to the

District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, and we respectfully urge you to consider her confirmation favorably.

Respectfully,

/s/ José Aníbal Herrero-Acevedo

/s/ Gloriana Salgado-Gándara

/s/ Javier E. Torres-Camacho

/s/ Priscila Silva-Irizarry

/s/ Norberto Muñiz-Muñiz

/s/ Dennis Soto-Fantauzzi

/s/ María Fernández-Bernal

/s/ Caroline López-Beauchamp

/s/ José Arturo Maldonado-Andreu