

OFFICE OF THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO
HON. LUIS G. FORTUÑO



July 7, 2022

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

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: U.S. Magistrate Judge Camille Vélez-Rivé

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I write to you in reference to the nomination of U.S. Magistrate Judge Camille Vélez-Rivé to serve as U.S. District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico. I have known Judge Vélez-Rivé for over two decades, as well as her parents and other family members. Said proximity to her allowed me to closely observe her stellar legal career in the U.S. Attorney's Office and as a U.S. Magistrate Judge during the past twenty-four years. During that period of time she has demonstrated her unquestionable capacity to handle criminal as well as civil cases, regardless of their complexity or the parties involved.

However, what distinguishes her in the courtroom as well as in any other setting is her integrity, temperament and humility. Given the pressures and difficulties inherent to the position she has been nominated to occupy, these are key character traits paramount to serving well the American citizens residing in Puerto Rico.

As a friend of Judge Vélez-Rivé, active legal practitioner and former Governor, I strongly recommend her nomination to serve as U.S. District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico. I have no doubts that if confirmed, Judge Vélez-Rivé will serve her community and the court with dignity, integrity and dispassionate objectivity. Should you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Luis G. Fortuño
Steptoe & Johnson LLP