



ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO  
OFICINA DE EX-GOBERNADORES

HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO VILÁ  
EX-GOBERNADOR

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

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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I fully recommend the confirmation of Judge Gina R. Méndez-Miró as a judge at the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

After working for seven years in the private sector at two of the most prestigious law firms in Puerto Rico, Judge Méndez-Miró began public service under my administration as Governor of Puerto Rico. In 2006, she was appointed Assistant Attorney General for Human Resources at the Puerto Rico Department of Justice. Since this initial appointment, she has decided to remain in public service for the past fifteen years, when she could have stayed in the private sector.

Having excelled in the Puerto Rico Department of Justice, she held other important positions in the Puerto Rico Office of Court Administration: Director of Judicial Programs and General Counsel and Director of the Legal Affairs Office. In these positions she advised the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico and the Director of the Office of Court Administration on important legal and administrative issues as well as on access to justice policies and programs, such as Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts, Specialized Domestic Violence Courts, Self-Represented Litigant Centers, Unified Family and Juvenile Courts, among others. In addition, as General

As Chief of Staff at the Senate of Puerto Rico, her experience in the Judicial Branch and her firm convictions in matters of access to justice and social justice crystallized into a significant criminal justice reform that sought to adopt a less punitive penal code, to promote the constitutional right to rehabilitation. This reform bill was aimed to restate court discretion for the imposition of sentences and penalties, adapt certain penalties to comply with the rehabilitation mandate established in the Puerto Rican Constitution, particularly for nonviolent crimes, and substantively significant, to adopt the classification of degrees of felonies from the Model Penal Code. I can attest to her efforts on this endeavor because she and I discussed at length the most effective strategies to assist with public perception and amass the votes needed to pass such significant and complex legislation. Such efforts culminated in the successful approval of Senate Bill 1210, which was signed into law as Act 246-2014, known as the Penal Code of Puerto Rico.

Nearly six years ago, Méndez-Miró was appointed Judge of the Court of Appeals of Puerto Rico. She was unanimously confirmed, which demonstrates the kind of trust and respect she has earned among all sectors of the public and political arena. A review of her judicial decisions during her tenure in the appellate bench reflect that she has a brilliant legal mind and a clear understanding of the role of the judiciary. The keen legal reasoning and thoughtful resolution of numerous complex legal matters and disputes clearly demonstrate Judge Méndez-Miró's ability and competence as an adjudicator.

Having been a legislator and a member of Congress myself, and Governor of Puerto Rico, I can assess true talent for service, and I can distinguish between those who hold office for their personal agendas from those who are genuinely driven by the public good. I also understand the magnitude of the constitutional mandate to appoint candidates with the temperament, intelligence, experience, and integrity that the job requires. I believe that Judge Méndez-Miró is more than qualified to serve as judge of the U.S. District Court and therefore urge the members of the Committee on the Judiciary and the Senate to confirm her without delay.

Cordially yours,



Aníbal Acevedo Vila