

**FORMER ATTORNEY GENERALS
PUERTO RICO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

July 6, 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: In Support of the Confirmation of Hon. Gina R. Méndez-Miró
as United States District Court Judge for the District of Puerto Rico*

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

As former Attorney Generals for Puerto Rico, we strongly support and recommend the confirmation of Judge Gina R. Méndez-Miró to fill one of the vacancies at the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico and urge the members of the Committee on the Judiciary and the Senate to confirm her without delay.

Judge Méndez-Miró has dedicated much of her life to the justice system. She began her career as an exceptionally skilled attorney at one of the island's most prestigious law firms. There, she excelled litigating a wide variety of cases at the labor and employment department. She gained extensive courtroom experience in all facets of litigation before administrative agencies and the state and federal courts.

After working for seven years in the private sector at two of the most prominent law firms in Puerto Rico, she began her career in public service at the Puerto Rico Department of Justice. As Assistant Attorney General for Human Resources she provided legal counsel regarding compliance with local and federal employment laws and regulations, litigated charges filed before the Equal

Employment Opportunity Commission and oversaw litigation of labor and employment cases, in both federal and local courts. She also actively participated in the committees of Governmental Ethics; Special Prosecutors for Juvenile Affairs and Family Affairs; and the Ombudsman for Persons with Disabilities; among others, often addressing diverse legal and policy issues. During her tenure at the Department of Justice she demonstrated her legal skills and capacity as an attorney with a reputation of being fair, hardworking, intelligent, and respectful.

For the past fifteen years she has devoted her career in public service to advancing equal access to justice for all. At the Puerto Rico Judicial Branch, she served as Director of Judicial Programs in charge of advising and implementing 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. As General Counsel and Director of the Legal Affairs Office, she advised the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico and the Director of the Office of Court Administration on diverse legal and administrative issues. As an experienced litigator with a deep understanding of the importance of trial advocacy, she led the litigation strategy for the Judicial Branch's docket in state and federal courts, and personally litigated several high-profile cases.

Following her experience in the Judicial Branch, as Chief of Staff at the Senate of Puerto Rico, Méndez-Miró spearheaded various legislative efforts, including a significant criminal justice reform aimed at repairing systemic socioeconomic inequities in the criminal justice system. To that extent, she assembled and led a team of top attorneys and faculty members from Puerto Rico's major Law Schools, who drafted a penal code aimed to promote the constitutional right to rehabilitation and adjusting the felony classifications to that of the Model Penal Code. These 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 Puerto Rico Court of Appeals. She was unanimously confirmed, which not only demonstrates the approval of her qualifications but also the kind of trust and respect she has earned from all sides of the aisle. During her tenure in the appellate bench, she has delivered hundreds of judgments on important constitutional, criminal, civil and administrative law issues demonstrating she approaches the law with an unwavering commitment to fairness and justice. A review of her judicial decisions reflects her keen legal reasoning, temperament and competence as a judge.

Those of us who know Judge Méndez-Miró, know of her qualifications and accomplishments as a proven judge, attorney, and public servant. We can attest not only to her strong moral compass and abiding integrity, but also her professional competence. Her work in all three branches of government reflect an impeccable track record of fairness and building a more equitable justice system. Her familiarity with public and private litigation in varied areas of the law, as well as her

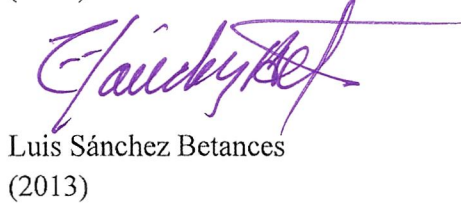
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time on the appellate bench, make her well-suited to serve in the federal court. In sum, we fully believe that Judge Méndez-Miró has all the credentials, experience and is more than qualified to serve as judge of the U.S. District Court.

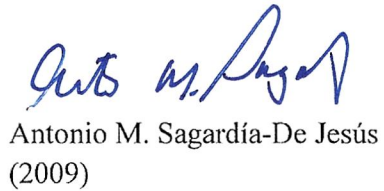
Respectfully,



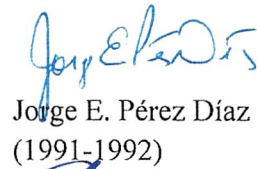
Carmen Rita Vélez-Bonras
(1983)



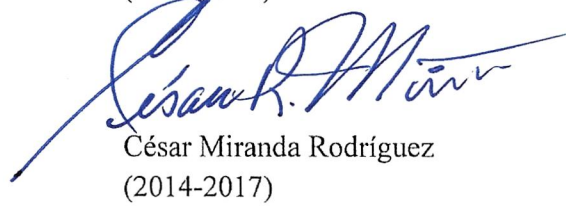
Luis Sánchez Betances
(2013)



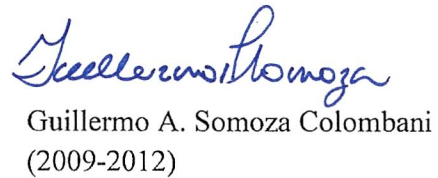
Antonio M. Sagardía-De Jesús
(2009)



Jorge E. Pérez Díaz
(1991-1992)



César Miranda Rodríguez
(2014-2017)



Guillermo A. Somoza Colombani
(2009-2012)