

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: Letter in Support of Judge Gina R. Méndez-Miró to the U.S. District Court

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am pleased to recommend and offer my support for the confirmation of the Honorable Gina Méndez-Miró as Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. I am confident that based on Judge Méndez-Miró's professional qualifications, experience as a sitting state court judge and demonstrated commitment to justice, she is worthy of elevation to the federal bench.

Judge Méndez-Miró has served impeccably in all three branches of government and I can personally attest to her commitment to public service. I first met Judge Méndez-Miró while I was governor, during the inauguration of the specialized domestic violence court at the Judicial Center of Bayamón. At the time, she served as Director of Judicial Programs at Puerto Rico Office of Courts Administration. She later became General Counsel, demonstrating her capacity as an attorney in favor of the Judicial Branch. Prior to that, she excelled at the labor and employment department at O'Neill & Borges, LLC, one of the island's most prominent law firms. A review of her flawless record as an attorney shows that both in the private and public sectors, she was a zealous advocate for her clients and served them well.

Following her career, I have consistently been impressed with Judge Méndez-Miró's professionalism and dedication to the fairness of our judicial system. That is why I was not surprised when in 2016 she was unanimously confirmed by the Senate to become a judge at the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals. The unanimous avail of the Puerto Rican Senate is not only evidence of her capacity as a consensus-builder and her ability to gain the respect of people across the aisle, but is also the best testament to her fitness for that office and a validation of her credentials as a lawyer with over twenty years of experience.

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Furthermore, for nearly six years Judge Méndez-Miró stood out at the state appellate bench as a hard-working, intelligent, impartial, and fair judge who decides strictly on the record based on the law and the facts. As a sitting judge she has compiled an impressive record of over seven hundred and fifty judicial decisions and has participated in the review of thousands of cases ranging from complex constitutional controversies to the intricacies of both civil and criminal procedure. Her decisions demonstrate her keen understanding of the application of State and federal laws, as well as the respect for the precedents of the Supreme Court and the deference owed to the trial court and administrative agencies.

Based on her distinguished service as a state judge and as an attorney, I affirm that she meets the very highest standards of integrity, possesses the breadth of experience necessary, as well as professional competence and judicial temperament to serve in the federal bench. Therefore, I respectfully ask that this Committee act favorably in considering the nomination of Judge Méndez-Miró as Judge of the District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

Sincerely,

Luis G. Fortuño
Steptoe & Johnson LLP