



HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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May 7, 2022

Via Electronic Mail

Eleanor Holmes Norton
U.S. House of Representatives
2136 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: *Highest Endorsement of Ana C. Reyes for U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia*

Dear Congresswoman Norton:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC) is pleased to extend its *highest* endorsement to Ana C. Reyes as a candidate for U.S. District Judge with the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. This endorsement is only reserved for a small fraction of candidates who meet our criteria. Ms. Reyes is a topnotch candidate who we are proud to support with our *highest* endorsement.

The HBA-DC undertakes a careful review of individuals who seek its endorsement. We ensure that candidates for endorsement meet the letter and spirit of our comprehensive endorsement policy, which includes criteria such as demonstrated professional qualifications, judicial temperament, and personal traits. Ms. Reyes readily meets those criteria.

Ms. Reyes has had a diverse and impressive legal career, and would make an excellent addition to the federal bench. She currently co-chairs Williams & Connolly's International Disputes practice group and served as a member of its Executive Committee for three years. She focuses her practice on complex litigation and international arbitration. Ms. Reyes has also developed a thriving pro bono practice, focusing her efforts on representing individuals who seek asylum. In 2019, she represented asylum seekers challenging a new regulation barring refugees crossing between ports of entry from seeking asylum; girls fleeing female genital mutilation in Ethiopia; a judge targeted for prosecution in Egypt; activists fleeing political violence in Afghanistan; girls fleeing rape and forced marriage in Central America; and girls fleeing Boko Haram in Nigeria. She has also served as pro bono criminal defense counsel in a first-degree murder trial. Through her billable and pro bono work, Ms. Reyes has practiced at all levels of the federal court system, including litigating in the District Court for the District of Columbia. Ms. Reyes has supplemented this work with substantial experiences with periods adjunct-

teaching at Yale and Georgetown law school, and with regular publications or presentations on a wide variety of legal issues.

Ms. Reyes's legal work has garnered a wide variety of praise and awards. For example, the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies has written, "Ana represents the very best of the legal profession: an accomplished and skilled litigator who provides the same high quality zealous advocacy whether she is representing an international corporation, a foreign government, or a refugee child." The *National Law Journal* has deemed her an "Immigration Trailblazer" and "Winning Litigator." The Women's Bar Association awarded her "Woman Lawyer of the Year."

The HBA-DC also highly values a demonstrated commitment to the D.C. community as well as to the rights or advancement of the Hispanic community and historically disadvantaged groups. Beyond her legal practice, Ms. Reyes donates her time and talents to several notable organizations to those ends. For example, Ms. Reyes is an active member of the HBA-DC and the Hispanic National Bar Association. She is also on the boards of the Kentucky YMCA Overseers, The Fuller Project (journalism non-profit dedicated reporting on women's often unheard stories), and The Feminist Majority Foundation (non-profit focusing on women's equality, reproductive health, and non-violence).

Finally, Ms. Reyes' personal journey is compelling and highlights her diversity and ability to relate to individuals from all backgrounds and experiences. She was born in Uruguay and lived in Spain before her family settled in Kentucky, where she was raised. When she immigrated to the United States, Ms. Reyes did not speak or read any English. Ms. Reyes has never forgotten the impact of language barriers, and that has informed her legal practice and approach.

Ms. Reyes possesses not only the substantive qualifications but also the diverse background that should be reflected on the bench. She would be the first Latina and first openly LGBTQ person to ever serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

In sum, the HBA-DC is pleased to provide our *highest* endorsement in support of Ms. Reyes for the judicial vacancy with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Respectfully Yours,

Maritza Perez
President
Hispanic Bar Association
of the District of Columbia
president@hbadc.org