

January 27, 2014

Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman, Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

I am writing this letter in support of the nomination of Leon Rodriguez for the position of Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

I am thoroughly familiar with Mr. Rodriguez's commitment to the rule of law, his integrity and his passion for justice as a prosecutor.

Mr. Rodriguez worked directly under my supervision as a Senior Assistant District Attorney in the Kings County District Attorney's Office from September 1991 through June 1994. First as Chief of the Organized Crime Bureau and later as Chief of the Corruption Investigation Division, I witnessed his dedication and devotion to the investigation and prosecution of members of organized crime and corrupt public officials and those who corrupted them.

His work in the Organized Crime Bureau was critical to our success in investigating and prosecuting some of the largest illegal sports gambling operations in the New York City region. I relied heavily on him to prepare, administer and monitor court-ordered wire taps which are essential in conducting successful investigations into illegal sports gambling operations. The investigative tools he acquired during these investigations enabled him to perform a leading role in the investigation and prosecution of the so-called Colombo Organized Crime Family "war" which raged on the streets of Brooklyn in the early 1990s. Our work, to which he contributed so significantly, saved lives by disrupting the murderous activities of the two factions at war within that crime family. As a result of his skills, he was cross-designated as Special Assistant United States Attorney for Eastern District of New York during the Colombo investigation.

When I was asked by the Kings County District Attorney to establish a new unit – the Corruption Investigation Division in 1993 in the wake of serious police corruption scandals in New York City, Mr. Rodriguez was one member of a small group of Assistant District Attorneys I recruited


to tackle this difficult and complex task. His integrity and competence had been well demonstrated during the time I supervised him in the Organized Crime Bureau. Because our unit was small, the demands on his time were great and he always met the challenge.

In addition to his legal skills and his serious commitment to law enforcement, Mr. Rodriguez demonstrated outstanding judgment and maturity when dealing with complex and challenging issues.

I have no hesitation or reservation in supporting his nomination for the position of Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, and believe that our nation and citizens will be well served with him in that position.

Yours truly,

Dennis R. Hawkins, Esq.



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Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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