

July 11, 2022

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

This is to convey my strong support of the nomination of Clerk of Court Maria Antongiorgi Jordán, Esq. to the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

I had the privilege of working with Ms. Antongiorgi early in my formation as an employment law, defense attorney at McConnell Valdes and have been fortunate to continue professional interactions with her during our careers. My support of Clerk Antongiorgi stems from what I have experienced firsthand from a skilled, civil, highly professional and admired civil defense lawyer, public servant, and human being.

As Capital Partner in the Labor Department of McConnell Valdes, Ms. Antongiorgi was a role model and positively influential at a professional and personal levels due to her excellence, intelligence and fairness as a sought-after and well-respected trial attorney, counselor, and fellow coworker. Her strengths and innate ability as an exceptional litigator and trial attorney were emulated and highly praised by her peers, clients, and opposing counsel alike, given her track record of seeing over 40 trials and extensive pretrial experience, while always maintaining a demeanor of equanimity and civility. As mentor, she had the ability to genuinely educate others in her ways, successful strategies and the rule of law and humbly share her experience. Her calmed, genuine, and respectful nature have always characterized all her interactions with clients, opposing counsel and coworkers at all levels. She has always been highly regarded as a hard worker, ethical and knowledgeable counselor substantively and procedurally.

Not surprisingly, Ms. Antongiorgi continued to be a leading figure as my career evolved and that of many others who have had the advantage of working along her side. After being a public servant myself as an Assistant U.S. Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Puerto Rico, holding numerous leadership positions with the Federal Bar Association at the National level, including being Member of its Board of Directors, Fellow and presiding its Puerto Rico Chapter, becoming a Capital Partner at my law firm and being Chair of our Employment Law Practice for more than 10 years, I fully understand the significance of and how essential is the nomination and confirmation of Clerk Antongiorgi to our U.S. District Court. Her already deserving qualities are further strengthened by her firsthand experiences as Clerk of Court in different management committees and the functioning and administration of the judicial system. Thus, Clerk Antongiorgi also brings a unique background to the role of administration of justice. All in all, nearing my 25 years as a federal practitioner and leader, my support of her nomination is well-guided and informed. Her caliber, her temperament and strong qualities demonstrate her preparedness to be a fine jurist and make her a remarkable nominee well-deserving of confirmation by this Committee.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly recommend that Clerk Antongiorgi be confirmed as the next district judge in the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

Respectfully,



Katherine Gonzalez-Valentin