

July 7, 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


Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

I write in support of Ms. Gina Méndez-Miró's confirmation as a U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Puerto Rico. I have known Ms. Méndez-Miró, currently a sitting Commonwealth Appeals Judge, for over a decade. We worked together in the Senate of Puerto Rico to pass major legislation concerning the local criminal justice system, and we also worked together as counsel to the administrative offices of the Puerto Rico court system to expand access to justice initiatives.

As a federal defense attorney on the Criminal Justice Act panels in the District of Puerto Rico and the Southern District of New York, I have appeared before dozens of federal district judges who wield power over the lives and fates of hundreds of citizens charged with myriad crimes. The best judges – irrespective of any particular result – tend to be open to persuasion by sound arguments from either side, and, most importantly, are keenly aware that they are dealing with human beings. I am convinced that Judge Méndez-Miró will operate in this vein. She has all the qualities – intellectual curiosity, compassion, and judiciary experience – to improve the federal bench in Puerto Rico.

Because of her education and professional background, I am confident that, when sentencing defendants, Judge Méndez-Miró will have the knowledge and the empathy to successfully fulfill the Congress's mandate, at 18 U.S.C. §3553, and carefully consider not only the nature and circumstances of a criminal offense but also the history and characteristics of the person charged. I believe this because Judge Méndez-Miró's work on the local appellate bench reflects that she carefully and meticulously studies the judicial record and both side's arguments. Her body of decisions shows that she is truly conscious of her role as a judge. Her judgments are well written and well-reasoned, and she has a touch for explaining complex legal issues in an accessible and straightforward way.

Because of her judicial experience, her compassion, her intellectual curiosity, her ability to clearly relay her legal reasoning, and her work ethic, I respectfully urge your committee to favorably consider and confirm Judge Méndez-Miró as a U.S. District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.



Leonardo M. Aldridge
Of Counsel