



April 26, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: **Letter of Support for Regina M. Rodriguez for the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) extends its strong support for the historic nomination of Regina M. Rodriguez to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado. If confirmed, Ms. Rodriguez will be the first Asian Pacific American to serve as an Article III judge in the 10th Circuit.

NAPABA is the largest Asian Pacific American membership organization representing the interests of over 50,000 attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students and nearly 90 national, state, and local affiliate bar associations. Its members include solo practitioners, large firm lawyers, corporate counsel, legal services and non-profit attorneys, and lawyers serving at all levels of government. NAPABA is the leading national voice for the Asian Pacific American legal profession.

Regina M. Rodriguez has a distinguished reputation as one of Colorado's most accomplished attorneys with deep experience in both the public and private sectors and a demonstrated commitment to serving the public interest. Prior to joining WilmerHale, where she currently handles complex litigation matters and serves as co-chair of the trial practice group, Ms. Rodriguez served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado, rising to become Deputy Chief and later Chief of the Civil Division, where she oversaw all civil litigation for the District. She was the youngest person and the first of Japanese and Mexican descent to hold that role. She received her J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law and her B.S. with honors from the University of Iowa.

Ms. Rodriguez is endorsed by NAPABA's affiliate APABA-CO and she is also active with our Coalition of Bars of Color (CBAC) partner, the Hispanic National Bar Association, where she serves as a member on its Law Enforcement Reform & Racial Justice Committee. Colorado Governor Jared Polis recently appointed her to serve on the Colorado Supreme Court Nominating Commission.

Ms. Rodriguez's own compelling family history has inspired her commitment to justice and helping underserved communities in Colorado. Her Japanese American mother's family was confined at the

Heart Mountain incarceration camp in Wyoming during the Second World War and her father's family emigrated to the U.S. from Mexico literally, at times, living on the railroad. At a time when our country is still binding the wounds of division, Ms. Rodriguez's remarkable background, which has strengthened her commitment to public service and a strong sense of justice, makes her nomination all the more timely and important.

Ms. Rodriguez is well qualified to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado and NAPABA strongly supports her nomination and swift confirmation by the Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Priya Purandare". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'P'.

Priya Purandare  
Executive Director