



June 18, 2021

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Dear Sirs:

I write to you in my capacity as President of the *Colegio de Abogados y Abogadas de Puerto Rico*, known in English as the Puerto Rico Bar Association (hereinafter referred to as the PRBA). We are one of the oldest bar associations in the America's, having been established over 180 years ago, with the purpose of the defending the civil rights of all members of Society while seeking to improve the quality of the practice of law for all its members.

After the untimely death of Hon. Judge Juan R. Torruella of the U.S. Federal Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, President Joseph Biden has designated Hon. Judge Gustavo Gelpí as his successor, and the United States Senate will now pass judgment on this designation. We wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support the designation of Judge Gelpí to the First Circuit Court vacancy.

Judge Torruella's shoes are extremely difficult to fill, given his 36 years of admirable and exceptional service, which raises the bar for anybody seeking to follow in his footsteps. Judge Gelpí is, in our opinion, the ideal candidate to continue Judge Torruella's tradition of hard work, profound analysis and compassion for those less fortunate.

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Honorable Gustavo Gelpí, who is at present Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District for Puerto Rico (USDPCR), would bring to the Court of Appeals vast experience in practically all aspects of the law, an extraordinary achievement given Judge Gelpí's age. Most of Judge Gelpí's professional experience has been in public service, starting as law clerk to Hon. Judge Juan M. Pérez Giménez of the USDPCR, moving on to work at the Office of the Federal Public Defender. He served as assistant to the Attorney General of Puerto Rico and was later promoted to Solicitor General, where he argued cases before the US Court of Appeals for the First, Second and District of Columbia Circuits. He joined the US District Court in Puerto Rico first as Magistrate Judge and later as District Judge, where he has served with distinction since 2006, holding today the position of Chief Judge of the Court. Those who have come in contact with Judge Gelpí during his long and varied career all agree that he is respectful, knowledgeable on the law and its nuances, balanced and willing to consider diverse positions before choosing a course of action.

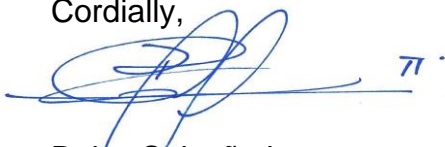
In addition to authoring hundreds of opinions throughout his judicial career in wide ranging topics, Judge Gelpí found time to write a book titled *The Constitutional Evolution of Puerto Rico and Other U.S. Territories 1898–Present*, which provides an objective look into the ramifications of the territorial status of Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories, a well-researched treatise on the Territorial Clause of the Constitution and the rights of U.S. citizens living in the U.S. Territories.

Judge Gelpí has remained active in other endeavors such as the Federal Bar Association, where he rose to the National Presidency of the organization, and the Puerto Rico Bar Association with whom he has cooperated tirelessly throughout his career. Judge Gelpí graciously and constantly lectures on diverse topics to attorneys and to the general public alike, seeking to instill in the audience respect and understanding for the Rule of Law.

Never one to shy away from controversial topics, Judge Gelpí has been an active spokesperson for human rights, equality, diversity and inclusion, ideas that have found their ways into his many of his opinions.

Judge Gelpí would bring to the Circuit Court his broad experience and his unlimited energy and enthusiasm, complemented by his sensibility and compassion for those seeking justice. It is for these reasons that we support, without any reservation, Judge Gelpí's nomination to the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Cordially,



Daisy Calcaño Lopez
President