



SUPREME COURT OF PUERTO RICO

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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

**Re: Hon. Gina R. Méndez-Miró
Confirmation to the
U.S. District Court
for the District of Puerto Rico**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

As a former judicial law clerk at the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, former litigation attorney for over 16 years in private practice, former Appellate Judge for the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals and as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, I strongly support the confirmation of Judge Gina R. Méndez-Miró to the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

Judge Méndez-Miró is undeniably qualified to serve in the judiciary, as evidenced by her strong academic background, her unanimous confirmation by the Puerto Rico Senate in 2016, her work for over six years as an Appellate Judge at the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals and her professional experiences both in private practice and public service.

I have known Judge Méndez-Miró both personally and professionally for the past 10 years. As a judge, she has served with distinction on the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals, where she has earned a reputation as a fair, hard-working and intelligent jurist who has equally earned the respect of her fellow judges and the legal community. I have followed her judicial career and have reviewed her decisions and can attest to the quality of her work. From my experience in that court, I know that the appellate bench is demanding and requires collegiality, judicial acumen and temperament, as well as the ability to write clearly and persuasively, harmonize a body of law, apply the law to the facts, and provide meaningful guidance to the trial courts, the bar and the parties, all qualities that she possesses. When one comes across any of her

judgments one must pause and pay attention, even on her dissents. This is because —throughout the wide range of decisions Judge Méndez-Miró has authored— she has distinguished herself as a jurist whose opinions are both well-written and well-organized, analytically rigorous, and reveal a deep understanding of the law. Her careful analysis and meticulous review of the facts of a case, as well as her respect for the limitations of the judicial role further indicate her excellent judicial temperament. Additionally, her writing style is direct. She demonstrates a strong ability to articulate the law clearly and to analyze and explain facts and intricate legal issues in an accessible and straightforward manner, which is beneficial to other courts, lawyers, and all parties involved.

Moreover, as an appellate judge, Judge Méndez-Miró has been able to manage and resolve hundreds of cases that come from the trial courts, relating to a myriad of civil, administrative and criminal topics that are also examined at the federal level. To that extent, she has written on a wide range of matters and has demonstrated an intellectual mastery of the varied procedural and substantive subjects from both state and federal law. Specifically, she has handled issues of criminal law relating to jury trials, speedy trial violations, confrontation clause, Sixth Amendment right to counsel, and searches and seizures, among others. On the civil side, she often reviews labor and employment disputes, insurance, torts, contractual disputes, and other claims.

As a veteran of the United States Navy and public servant myself, I can see that her commitment to justice and public service precedes her time at the bench. She is a seasoned trial attorney with over 20 years of experience in private practice, in one of Puerto Rico's top law firms, and in public service in all three branches of government. In the private sector, she has represented individuals and corporations alike and has provided legal counsel in various areas of civil practice, especially in employment law. At the Executive Branch, as Assistant Attorney General for Human Resources, and at the Puerto Rico Judicial Branch, as General Counsel and Director of the Office of Legal Affairs, she provided counsel in numerous legal matters in addition to supervising the litigation of matters or directly representing these government entities before both federal and state courts as well as administrative agencies. She also served at the Legislative Branch where as Chief of Staff of the Senate her diplomacy and keen knowledge of diverse legal and policy issues assisted her in managing and spearheading critical legislation.

In addition to her solid credentials as an attorney and as a sitting judge, Judge Méndez-Miró is a remarkable person. In my interactions with her over the years I have seen her humanity and affable character, as well as her passion for the law. One cannot walk away from a conversation with her without realizing how seriously she takes her role as a judge. Her family is the center of her world and her integrity commands my trust and respect. She is as unfailingly decent off the bench as she is on it.

Throughout her career, Judge Méndez-Miró has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to enforcing the rule of law with objectivity, thoughtfulness and impartiality, and I have no doubts whatsoever that she would be an outstanding addition to the federal bench. For these reasons I strongly urge you to confirm Judge Méndez-Miró to the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

Respectfully yours,



Roberto Feliberti