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**By email &
Regular mail**

July 7, 2022

Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Re: In Support of the Nomination of Hon. Gina R. Méndez-Miró as United States District Court Judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I have seldomly recommended nominees for judiciary appointments, as doing so entails a great responsibility and a deep understanding of the importance of the bench and the expectations we have from a judge's behavior and ethics nowadays. However, I unreservedly and enthusiastically support the appointment of Hon. Gina R. Méndez-Miró, currently a Puerto Rico Court of Appeals Judge, to the bench of the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

After I graduated from law school, I had the privilege of serving as a law clerk to Hon. Magistrate-Judge Justo Arenas, U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, from 1988 to 1989, and worked extensively on the Dupont Hotel Fire case, at that time, the largest mass-disaster litigation in the history of the United States. As a result, I had the opportunity to see the work of the judges appointed to the U.S. District Court for our district and learned about the

meaning of such a respectable appointment, as well as its obligations and demands.

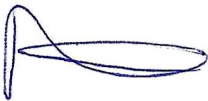
After knowing judge Méndez-Miró for over twelve years, I have no doubt in my mind that she will be an exceptional United States district judge and unwaveringly support her nomination. I met judge Méndez-Miró when she was the Director of the Legal Counsel Office for the Puerto Rico Judicial Branch, and we work closely in multiple matters encompassing diverse and complicated legal issues. I was able to see firsthand her intellectual capacity, professionalism, intelligence, and charisma. It is also worth mentioning that judge Méndez-Miró worked extensively with ethical issues for the judiciary. Accordingly, she has a strong knowledge of the ethical boundaries surrounding a judge's appointment and the demands and personal sacrifices that it entails.

Judge Méndez-Miró possesses all the qualities one seeks from a judge: intelligence, discipline, integrity, commonsense, empathy, knowledge of the law, and experience, both as a litigator and as a judge. She is a passionate advocate for justice, fairness, and equality, and is committed to guarantee access to justice for all. Judge Méndez-Miró has all the credentials and experience to be an excellent United States district judge. Outside the professional arena, judge Méndez-Miró is an extraordinary human being, a devoted mother and wife, and a loving daughter, sister, and aunt. In sum, a delightful person who I have the privilege to know and to have worked with.

As a result, I am convinced that the District Court for the District of Puerto Rico will strongly benefit from her appointment as one of its judges. Her strong moral compass and integrity makes her an exceptional addition to the bench of the Federal District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, adding diversity, energy, and wittiness to it.

I am honored and pleased to support judge Méndez-Miró's nomination as District Judge for the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

Cordially,



Rosa María Cruz-Niemiec