



SILA M. CALDERÓN

Via Email: phillip_brest@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

July 5th, 2022

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

RE: Confirmation of Judge Gina R. Méndez-Miró to the U.S. District Court

Dear Senator Durbin:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to wholeheartedly recommend the confirmation of Hon. Judge Gina R. Méndez-Miró, currently an appellate judge at the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals, to serve as U.S. District Judge on the United States Court for the District of Puerto Rico. Judge Méndez-Miró's range of experience, reputation for fairness and integrity demonstrates that she is undoubtedly qualified for service on the federal bench.

I have personally known Judge Méndez-Miró since 2013. She is a woman of profound intelligence whose breadth of knowledge about the issues and the law is remarkable and her commitment to service deep. When discussing important public policy matters while at the Senate, Judge Méndez-Miró was always solidly prepared but moreover, I was always impressed by her ability to listen to arguments from all sides, her diplomacy and sound judgment when engaging with others. Judge Méndez-Miró is one to convey her ideas and express her positions clearly, respectfully, eloquently, and assertively.

Judge Méndez-Miró has served as an attorney in the public and private sector. She has handled complex matters of public importance with integrity, amassing an

impeccable record which shows a principled, fair, passionate thinker, with an unwavering moral compass. I believe that Judge Mendez-Miró embodies the essential qualities that any judge—at the state or federal level— should possess including, compassion and empathy for all human beings, especially the most vulnerable, intellect, experiences with life issues, with judicial issues, integrity, and equanimity. To this extent, her career as an attorney in all three branches of government speaks volumes.

At the Executive Branch she served as Assistant Attorney General for Human Resources, demonstrating her ability to analyze complicated factual and legal issues and apply the law appropriately. Later, she served as a top policy and legal advisor to former Chief Justice Hernández Denton, first as Director of Judicial Programs and later as General Counsel. In such roles, she was a passionate advocate for access to justice for victims of domestic violence, self-represented litigants, and other vulnerable populations. Therein she supported and advanced social justice policies that are in line with the vision of my Foundation and the projects that we promote at the Center for Puerto Rico. As the top legal advisor for the Judicial Branch, she also exhibited deep understanding of the importance of the trial courts in resolving people's conflicts with efficiency and sensibility. These experiences, along with her work in civil litigation in one of Puerto Rico's most prestigious law firms, provide a well-rounded candidate for the federal bench.

For nearly six years as an appellate judge, she has proven to be one of the most diligent, hardworking, and brightest judges in the court. She is sound and well balanced, and her judicial opinions are substantiated. Judge Méndez-Miró not only possesses an exceptional legal mind but is not one to stand on pomp and circumstance. Her decisions are easily decipherable by a lay person because she understands the importance of everyone who partakes of the judicial process. The fact that she has not lost touch with the people who are affected by her decisions is one of the most important qualities she possesses.

As a former Governor, I understand the constitutional responsibility of nominating someone to a position of the highest public trust like a member of the judiciary. As such, I felt true excitement and pride when I learned of her nomination to the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals. Judge Mendez-Miró's unanimous confirmation in 2016 speaks to the type of leader she is. Respectful of others, always reaching across the aisle, a consensus builder that stands firm in her beliefs but understands the

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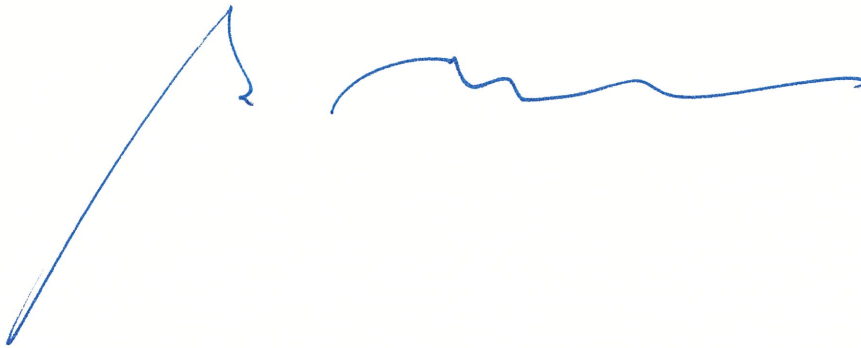
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importance of fair play and finding common ground. She brought those qualities to the Courts of Appeals and her reputation attests it.

Undoubtedly, Judge Méndez-Miró is supremely qualified to serve on the U.S. District Court. The extent and depth of her professional and judicial experience make her perfectly suited to succeed as a trial judge and more so, to positively impact in diversifying perspectives on the federal bench.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, sweeping initial 'R' followed by a series of connected, wavy lines that form the rest of the name.