

Michael L. O'Donnell
WHEELER TRIGG O'DONNELL LLP
370 Seventeenth Street
Suite 4500
Denver, Colorado 80202
odonnell@wtotrial.com

James M. Lyons
LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE
1200 Seventeenth Street
Suite 300
Denver, Colorado 80202
jlyons@lrrc.com

Michael S. McCarthy
FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP
1144 15th Street
Suite 3400
Denver, Colorado 80202
michael.mccarthy@faegredrinker.com

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

We write in support of the nomination of Gina Rodriguez for appointment to the United States District Court for the District of Colorado.

We are Colorado trial lawyers with decades of experience trying cases in the federal courts. We each have known Gina for many years and hold her in the highest regard as a skilled and fair-minded lawyer, a civic-minded citizen of the community and a long-time role model for diverse young lawyers throughout our state.

Gina's qualifications for service on the federal bench are evident from her distinguished and varied career. Following graduation from law school, Gina found herself immediately in the crucible of civil trial practice as a junior lawyer in a small but well-respected Denver litigation firm. In this setting, Gina began honing her skills by trying cases with some of the best Colorado trial advocates of their day.

In a reflection of her deep commitment to public service, Gina left private practice to join the office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado, eventually rising to lead the Civil Division of that office. While serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Gina handled a wide range of civil cases on behalf of the federal government, trying and winning a number of them. We can state without hesitation that Gina was known for being a fair but tough AUSA who enjoyed an outstanding reputation among the federal judges before whom she appeared.

After serving seven years with the U.S. Attorney's Office, Gina returned to private practice, working for larger national law firms on complex civil and criminal cases of the type frequently litigated in federal courts. Despite the often grueling demands of a busy practice, Gina has given generously and tirelessly of her time by taking on pro bono cases, engaging in civic projects and volunteering for community organizations, many of which are focused on enhancing educational and career opportunities for diverse youth. And she did all this while juggling the demands and challenges of working with her husband to raise their two young children.

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We are each also acquainted with Gina through her membership as a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. We are Fellows as well and, notably, Mike O'Donnell is the incoming President-Elect of the College, while Jim Lyons and Michael McCarthy have served in leadership roles with the College's Colorado State Committee. Admission to the College is based on robust scrutiny of a candidate's trial experience and skills, as well as professionalism and civility. We can assure you from our personal knowledge that Gina met those standards with flying colors.

Beyond her many professional and civic accomplishments, it is Gina's core personal character that, in our judgment, best qualifies her to serve as a federal judge. That core character trait is, at bottom, Gina's deep and abiding commitment to fairness and justice. We are therefore hopeful that you will accept the joint recommendation of Senator Bennet and Senator Hickenlooper and nominate Gina Rodriguez for appointment to serve as a United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

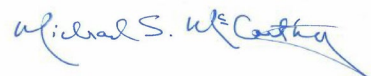
Very truly yours,



Michael L. O'Donnell



James M. Lyons



Michael S. McCarthy

cc: Senator Michael Bennet
Senator John Hickenlooper