

O'NEILL & BORGES LLC

250 MUÑOZ RIVERA AVENUE, SUITE 800
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO 00918-1813

YLDEFONSO LÓPEZ MORALES
OF COUNSEL
(787) 282-5758

TELEPHONE: (787) 764-8181
TELECOPIER: (787) 753-8944
YLDEFONSO.LOPEZ@ONEILLBORGES.COM

July 5, 2022

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

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

As her former direct supervisor at O'Neill & Borges, LLC (O&B), I am pleased and honored to recommend, without reservations, Judge Gina R. Méndez-Miró's confirmation to the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. I am absolutely confident that your review of her exemplary record will reveal Judge Méndez-Miró has the qualifications, experience, and temperament to be an outstanding addition to the federal judiciary.

I came to know Judge Méndez-Miró in 2000 when, together with a panel of O&B partners, I interviewed her for the position of Associate Attorney at the Firm's Labor and Employment Department. At the outset, we were impressed with her resume. However, her answers to our incisive and specific questions during her interview, confirmed she was an optimal candidate. As a result, we immediately decided to offer her a position upon graduation.

As a young attorney who was just initiating her career, Gina exhibited great ability to address complex legal issues, respond to fast-paced litigation, and exercised mature judgment well beyond her age and experience. I consider myself one of her mentors and, as such, saw her excel—during a period of five years—representing clients in labor and employment related litigation before the local and federal courts, and before administrative agencies, in connection with claims for multiple types of employment discrimination, sexual harassment, wrongful termination, and

wage and hour claims. Gina was always committed and hardworking, with high energy and exceedingly resourceful. Also, and not less important, she was always in high spirits.

I specifically recall a wages and benefits case where she was my co-counsel. It was impressive how she handled the deposition of several plaintiffs and all pre-trial proceedings. As with other cases she participated in, she was incisive, paid attention to detail and was very good at establishing priorities. I have no doubt that her efforts and litigation skills in that case greatly contributed to accelerate plaintiffs' early decision to withdraw their claims and our ability to get the case dismissed in favor of our client, JAF Communications.

In addition to litigation, on several occasions I entrusted her with drafting employment manuals and internal policies and regulations. Later, I invited her to participate as a co-speaker in trainings and educational seminars on diverse labor and employment topics for several of our clients, which included the pharmaceutical, product-distribution, restaurant, and telecommunication industries. In sum, I had the opportunity to see first-hand that she consistently displayed a keen intellect, sound judgment, exceptional analytical ability, and the highest level of integrity in representing our clients. Beyond that, I learned that Gina is an unfailingly fair-minded, kind, well balanced and modest person, that she has a great sense of humor and was always an amiable colleague. I am proud to have worked with her and was deeply saddened to see her go. We were convinced that Gina would soon become a partner at O'Neill & Borges. Despite our loss at the firm, we knew her calling was to dedicate her career to public service.

That is why, after witnessing her performance at the law firm, I decisively recommended her appointment to the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals. As I expressed at the time to the Senate Judiciary Committee: "This is an excellent appointment." "[The Governor] is leaving a tremendous legacy for the country and the Judiciary." "Gina is intellectually superior to the judges who are there", among many other remarks.

After being unanimously confirmed by the Puerto Rico Senate, for nearly six years she has served with excellence in the Puerto Rican judiciary. During her tenure in the appellate bench, she has delivered hundreds of judgments on important constitutional, criminal, civil and administrative law issues, the majority of which include matters that are addressed daily in the United States District Court. Her writing skills are exceptional, and she presents logical and coherent explanations for the legal conclusions that she reaches. Her ethics are beyond reproach, her commitment to the legal profession is demonstrable, and her diligence to duty is outstanding. Above all, she maintains the deportment required of trial judges in arriving at fair and equitable decisions.

In sum, Judge Méndez-Miró is well respected and highly regarded by all who have worked with her whether as co-counsel, opposing counsel, or litigants before her as a judge in the Court of Appeals. She has also earned the respect of law clerks, students, and peers alike. That is no doubt a reflection of her intellect and compassion as a jurist and serves as a testament to her character and approach to the law.

The Honorable Dick Durbin
The Honorable Chuck Grassley
July 5, 2022

Page 3

Judge Méndez-Miró's record reflects that she has served in many capacities throughout her career which, in my opinion, optimally prepare her for the elevation to the federal bench. I believe that her familiarity with public and private litigation in varied areas of the law, as well as her experience as a sitting judge, make her ideally suited to serve in the federal court. She brings diversity, inclusion, and a fresh vision to the United States District Court in San Juan.

Considering all the above, it is my honor to unconditionally recommend her confirmation—as she is more than qualified—to serve as a judge in the U.S. District Court.

Sincerely,



Yldefonso López Morales