



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
120 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10271

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Attorney General

(212) 416-8050

June 12, 2009

Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4502

Honorable Jeff Sessions
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
335 Russell State Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0104

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Sessions:

I write in strong support of President Barack Obama's nomination of Second Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court. I firmly believe that Judge Sotomayor's extensive and varied experience makes her the right person, at the right time, for a seat on our nation's highest court.

Judge Sotomayor's credentials speak for themselves. A brilliant and fair minded jurist who combines a sound legal mind with a common touch, her judicial acumen has been noted by presidents of both parties. She began her legal career as an assistant district attorney in the New York County District Attorney's Office, and, following eight years in private practice, was nominated in 1991 by President George H.W. Bush to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, becoming the first Hispanic American on that court. In 1997, she was nominated by President Clinton for her current position with the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Throughout her nearly two decades on the bench, Judge Sotomayor has authored over 700 opinions in a wide variety of areas of the law. Her opinions make it clear that she is a jurist committed to upholding core constitutional values, deciding cases on narrow grounds, avoiding deciding issues prematurely, and crafting remedies that suit the particular circumstances presented.

However, Judge Sotomayor will bring much more than her impressive judicial background to the Supreme Court. Her real world experiences will provide her with a unique outlook on how Supreme Court decisions impact everyday citizens. Through her affiliation with groups such as the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund; the State of New York Mortgage Agency; the Maternity Center Association; the New York City Campaign Finance Board; the Second Circuit Task Force on Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts; and a number of national and local bar associations, Judge Sotomayor has gained a perspective that will serve her well as a member of the Supreme Court.

I am honored to join the long list of those individuals and organizations supporting this nomination and it is without hesitation that I encourage swift confirmation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor as a member of the United States Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

ANDREW M. CUOMO