

July 2, 2009

Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Ranking Member, United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators:

As former colleagues of the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor during her years as a prosecutor in the Office of the New York County District Attorney, we write to express our wholehearted support for her nomination to the United States Supreme Court.

We served together during some of the most difficult years in our City's history. Crime was soaring, a general sense of disorder prevailed in the streets, and the popular attitude was that increasing violence was inevitable. It was in this setting that Sonia decided to start her career, not in a judge's chambers or at a high-powered law firm, but rather in the halls of New York's Criminal Courts, as an assistant district attorney.

She began as a "rookie" in 1979, working long hours prosecuting an enormous caseload of misdemeanors before judges managing overwhelming dockets. Sonia so distinguished herself in this challenging assignment that she was among the very first in her starting class to be selected to handle felonies. She prosecuted a wide variety of felony cases, including serving as co-counsel at a notorious murder trial. She developed a specialty in the investigation and prosecution of child pornography cases. Throughout all of this, she impressed us as one who was singularly determined in fighting crime and violence. For Sonia, service as a prosecutor was a way to bring order to the streets of a City she dearly loves. At the same time, she had an abiding sense of justice that spoke of the traditions of an Office headed by Thomas Dewey, Frank Hogan and Robert Morgenthau.

Few of us can forget her careful and painstaking jury selection. As diligently as she prepared her cases, she also readied her juries to evaluate the evidence and apply the facts to the law as they were instructed by the judge. As any trial lawyer knows, this is no easy task. Sonia emphasized that it is both a privilege and a duty to sit on a case, and jurors must do so without bias or prejudice.

We are proud to have served with Sonia Sotomayor. She solemnly adheres to the rule of law and believes that it should be applied equally and fairly to all Americans. As a group, we have different world views and political affiliations, but our support for Sonia is entirely non-partisan. And the fact that so many of us have remained friends with Sonia over three decades speaks well, we think, of her warmth and collegiality.

We urge all Senators to approve Sonia's nomination, as our country will be better off with Judge Sotomayor sitting on our nation's highest court.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Rabinowitz  
Marc J. Citrin  
John W. Fried  
Thomas Demakis  
Rubie A. Mages  
John Lenoir  
Ted Poretz  
Mike Cherkasky  
Joseph Ortego  
Steven Fishner  
Irving Hirsch  
Jerry Neugarten  
Fred Biesecker  
Annette Sanderson  
Jackie Hilly  
Jessica DeGrazia  
Maureen Barden  
Deborah Veach  
Vivian Berger  
Maurice Mathis

Susan Gliner  
Elizabeth Lederer  
Frank Munoz  
Isabelle Kirshner  
Richard Girgenti  
Peter Kougasian  
Nancy Gray  
Jason Dolin  
William Tandy  
Patrice M. Davis  
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James Warwick  
Stephen L. Dreyfuss  
Consuelo Fernandez  
Jeff Schlanger  
Richard H. Girgenti  
John Moscow  
Eugene Porcarco  
Kim H. Townsend

CC: Hon. Herb Kohl  
Hon. Orrin G. Hatch  
Hon. Dianne Feinstein  
Hon. Charles E. Grassley  
Hon. Russell D. Feingold  
Hon. Jon Kyl  
Hon. Charles E. Schumer  
Hon. Lindsey Graham  
Hon. Richard J. Durbin  
Hon. John Cornyn  
Hon. Benjamin L. Cardin  
Hon. Tom Coburn  
Hon. Sheldon Whitehouse  
Hon. Ron Wyden  
Hon. Amy Klobuchar  
Hon. Edward E. Kaufman  
Hon. Arlen Specter