

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
433 Russell Senate Office Building
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The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
335 Russell Senate Office Building
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Re: The Nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court of the United States

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Leahy, and Ranking Member Sessions:

We are women litigators in private practice who appear before the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and other district courts in our Circuit.¹ We write to voice our enthusiastic support for the nomination to the Supreme Court of Sonia Sotomayor, based on her proven intellect, her broad-based legal and judicial experience, and her character.

¹ We write in our individual capacities and on behalf of no person or entity other than ourselves. Firm names and addresses are provided for identification purposes only.

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Judge Sotomayor excelled in school, graduating valedictorian of Cardinal Spellman High School in New York. At Princeton University, she was a co-recipient of the M. Taylor Pyne Prize, the highest honor Princeton awards to an undergraduate, graduating *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa. At Yale Law School, Judge Sotomayor served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal and as managing editor of the Yale Studies in World Public Order.

Judge Sotomayor became an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan in 1979, where she tried dozens of criminal cases over five years. She entered private practice in 1984, becoming a partner at the firm of Pavia & Harcourt LLP as a litigator, handling cases involving issues from intellectual property to banking, real estate and contract law.

Her judicial service began in October 1992 with her appointment to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York by President George H.W. Bush. From 1992 to 1998, she presided over approximately 450 cases. While in the district court, Judge Sotomayor developed a reputation as a no-nonsense judge who was both tough and even handed. There, with her experience as a New York City prosecutor and a lawyer, she was focused on the issues, without losing sight of the fact that litigants before her often faced the loss of liberty.

President Clinton appointed Judge Sotomayor to the Second Circuit in 1998. On that court, she has participated in over 3000 panel decisions and orders, authoring over 230 majority opinions. In the Circuit, Judge Sotomayor's years of experience were quickly evident in the performance of her new duties. Her approach is professional, and she treats all parties respectfully. Her opinions speak for themselves and attest to her unquestioned commitment to excellence and the rule of law.

Judge Sotomayor is also a Lecturer at Columbia University Law School and was an adjunct professor at New York University Law School until 2007. She has served as a member of the Second Circuit Task Force on Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts and was formerly on the Boards of Directors of the New York Mortgage Agency, the New York City Campaign Finance Board, and the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund. A project to which she has devoted her attention is the Development School for Youth program, which sponsors workshops for inner-city high school students. In addition to the workshop experience, each student is offered a summer job by one of the corporate sponsors of the program. We also applaud the fact that almost one-half of her law clerks have been women, giving them an experience that will serve them throughout their lives.

We believe that Judge Sotomayor's character and experiences – educational, legal, and judicial – make her uniquely qualified for the challenges she will meet in the Supreme Court. She is an extraordinary judge and will make an extraordinary justice.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

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