

July 12, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are law professors and scholars from around the country who write to express our support for the confirmation of Myrna Pérez as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. We are academics, and each of us has taught, litigated, researched, or worked with Ms. Pérez. She is an experienced attorney with impeccable legal credentials who will bring to the bench character, intellectual brilliance, impartiality, and good judgment. She is one of the nation's most respected voting rights attorneys. As demonstrated by her exemplary legal career, Myrna Pérez possesses the brilliance and experience to be a superb appellate jurist.

The first in her family to graduate from college, Ms. Pérez was a star student at Yale, Harvard, and Columbia. Since then, her work defending democracy has taken her to federal and state courthouses, legislatures, classrooms, and public events around the country. At Columbia and New York University law schools, two of the nation's leading institutions, her teaching has focused on public policy advocacy, civil rights lawyering, and election law. In addition, Ms. Pérez speaks frequently on academic and bar association panels. Across this wide range of fora, we have seen her excellence in arguing cutting-edge cases, her firm grasp of policy and legal doctrine, and her gifted ability to develop and pursue sophisticated advocacy strategies. She can clearly and persuasively communicate complex issues to a broad audience. These many strengths are especially important in a judge, and their combination would be a powerful contribution to the bench.

In addition to her work educating students and the broader public, Ms. Pérez, and the attorneys and researchers whom she leads, have produced definitive, widely respected research on voting laws, election administration, and their impact. Her research is widely cited in the media and by Members of Congress. It is rigorous, empirically sound, statistically grounded, and compelling. Just as significant, her research is published in service of the needs of disadvantaged communities – a perspective sorely needed on the federal bench.

Ms. Pérez's brilliance as an advocate and scholar is paired with her unwavering commitment to do justice and serve her community. Her deep faith has led her to focus her professional life on public service and to be an active community servant in her personal life. She is president of her church council, sits on the

boards of Crossroads Prison Ministries and Sojourners, and has served on the Board of Grace Community Services in Jersey City. She coordinates a crew of volunteers to provide meals to underserved communities in Jersey City and spearheads other anti-hunger initiatives in her community. She is active in her son's Title I public school and coordinated its beloved after school program prior to the pandemic.

In addition to her intellectual strength and her longstanding commitment to public service, we also know that Ms. Pérez's temperament makes her an excellent candidate for federal judicial service. She is down-to-earth, collegial, and gracious, and she treats everyone with the dignity and respect that we should expect from our highest public officials.

Ms. Pérez is a superbly qualified nominee to U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and we urge her speedy confirmation.

Respectfully,

Jessie Allen
Associate Professor
University of Pittsburgh School of Law

Emily Berman
Associate Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

Richard Briffault
Joseph P. Chamberlain Professor of Legislation
Columbia Law School

Jessica Bulman-Pozen
Betts Professor of Law
Columbia Law School

Alexandra Carter
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Columbia Law School

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Joshua A. Douglas
Ashland, Inc.-Spears Distinguished Research Professor of Law
University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law

Caroline Fredrickson
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UCLA School of Law

Paul Gronke
Professor & Director of the Early Voting Information Center
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Helen Hershkoff
Herbert M. and Svetlana Wachtell Professor of Constitutional Law and Civil Liberties
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UCLA School of Law

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