



CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

July 9, 2021

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

On behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), I write to emphasize the vital role that you and your committee play in the confirmation process and how it is a critical step in President Biden diversifying the judiciary. As our country faces unprecedented challenges, we have the rare opportunity to rebuild our country in a way that meets the needs of minority populations and reflects the image of our diverse American constituency.

As the CHC works to ensure there is robust Latino representation in the administration and federal courts, I write in support of President Biden's nomination of Myrna Pérez to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Latinos represent the largest and second-fastest growing ethnic group in the nation, making up nearly 20 percent of the U.S. population. Yet, there has only been one Latina to have been on the bench of the Second Circuit appeals court and that is Justice Sonia Sotomayor who has since moved to the U.S. Supreme Court. As of May 2020, Latinos are just 6% of appeals judges and 7% of district judges, according to Minority Corporate Counsel Association.

Ms. Pérez's confirmation would be historic on several levels. If confirmed, Ms. Pérez would be the only female Hispanic member on the bench of the federal appeals court, and the second Latina to do so. With years of litigation experience in federal courts throughout the country, Ms. Pérez is eminently qualified to serve on the federal judiciary.

Ms. Pérez was born in San Antonio to an immigrant family from Mexico. She graduated from Yale University and received a M.P.P. from the Harvard Kennedy School and her J.D. from Columbia Law School. While an undergraduate student at Yale University, she interned for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI). In addition to being a lecturer-in-law, she serves as a Director of Voting Rights and Elections at the Brennan Center. Her dedication to research, advocacy, and litigation work on voting rights and election administration make her highly qualified for her post on the Second Circuit.

I respectfully request your thorough and swift confirmation of Myrna Pérez to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Sincerely,

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Chair, Congressional Hispanic Caucus