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May 14, 2018

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Judge Rodolfo (Rudy) Ruiz

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I strongly and enthusiastically support the nomination of Judge Rodolfo (Rudy) Ruiz to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. Judge Ruiz's intellect, temperament, writing ability, and passion for the law make him a perfect candidate for this lifetime appointment. I have known and worked with Judge Ruiz for over 15 years and have always been inspired by his talents and sincere interest in serving his community. Judge Ruiz is precisely at that point in his career where both he and the Southern District of Florida would greatly benefit from his participation on the District Court's bench.

As the former United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida (2010-17), and during my legal career, which has also included stints in the private sector and the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office, I have learned to identify those who possess a sincere interest in the justice system and in understanding the manner by which our laws are carried out in our communities. Judge Ruiz is such a person. I have developed a deep respect for Judge Ruiz as an attorney, as a judge, and as a person, and I have no doubt that he embodies the integrity and smarts that are quintessential of the ideal federal district court judge.

Strengths

Judge Ruiz's greatest strengths include his analytical and reasoning ability, his attention to detail and capacity to write in a clear, logical manner, his high ethical standard, his ability to build consensus, and, perhaps most notably, his dedication and enthusiasm to work hard. He has a first-class analytical mind and a good "common sense" grasp of issues, a combination of skills not always present in even the best of lawyers and judges.

As stated above, I have known Judge Ruiz for over 15 years, and had the pleasure of working directly with him when I was Chief of the Federal Litigation Section at the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office. During my time in that office, I had the opportunity to observe him regularly and review his work product. I can state without hesitation that he performed and discharged his assignments in a fashion that exceeded his co-worker's levels.

Having monitored his practice as an Assistant County Attorney, I can also attest that Judge Ruiz always carried out his duties as a highly conscientious lawyer. He is a dedicated professional who made a distinct contribution to that office. Judge Ruiz is frequently described by his motivation, his reasoning and writing qualities, and his ability to work well with others.

Contribution to the Florida Circuit Court Bench and to the Legal Field

As a Florida State Circuit Court Judge, Judge Ruiz may be distinguished from his colleagues by his ability to quickly grasp and resolve difficult legal issues through his legal acumen. I have had the opportunity to observe Judge Ruiz handle extremely difficult, complex, and antagonistic cases in his courtroom. Judge Ruiz handled these stressful situations with composure, tact, and expertise. He has the rare ability to analyze complex cases and focus on the truly important questions through issue-spotting techniques that seem more innate than learned. I view this quality as essential to being an effective and superb judge. Judge Ruiz also has the capacity to discuss and analyze difficult legal issues using clear, easy-to-understand language.

Although I no longer work with Judge Ruiz, I keep in regular contact with him and enjoy witnessing him participate in several community events and judicial panels where he speaks openly with students about the rewards and challenges of being a lawyer and a judge. He makes a point of candidly acknowledging his own mistakes and shortcomings with students, and serves as an example of the importance of personal and professional responsibility. Judicial integrity cannot exist without the underlying personal integrity of each judge, and Judge Ruiz models both for law students, professional colleagues, and the public.

Interpersonal Skills and Temperament

I have already described Judge Ruiz's qualities as a co-worker and as a judge. As a friend, I can say without reservation that he is trustworthy, honest, and of the utmost integrity.

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Those qualities are the very reasons why he is effective in establishing and maintaining personal and professional relationships.

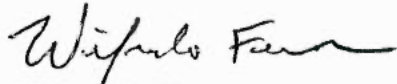
Those who interact with Judge Ruiz in either a personal or professional capacity quickly realize that he embodies that rare blend of intellect, common sense, and a true desire to make his community a better place. Not only do these traits help him in his personal life, but I also believe that his ability to interact well with others translates well in the legal and judicial setting.

In sum, there are many reasons why I believe Judge Ruiz would be a perfect fit as a federal district court judge. Judge Ruiz is a good, fair, and compassionate judge who respects and abides by the rule of law. He is intelligent, fair, and possesses the humanity, strength, and grit that come from being the son of immigrants and from being raised and educated in this country as a first generation Cuban American. These qualities are not contrived, but inherent in his personality and composition. His legal talent, love for the law, and personality inspire others to follow his example, and therefore, make him a successful public servant and state court judge. We need Judge Ruiz on the federal bench. I support him without hesitation and he is excited about the possibility.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like any more information.

Sincerely,

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wifredo Ferrer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wifredo A. Ferrer