



February 13, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Senator Patrick Leahy
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: HNBA Endorsement of Justice Analisa Torres for
Appointment to the United States District Court
for the Southern District of New York**

Dear Mr. President and Senators Leahy and Grassley:

On behalf of the Hispanic National Bar Association ("HNBA"), I write to express our enthusiastic support for the appointment of Justice Analisa Torres to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Based on her lifetime record in professional and public service, Justice Torres would be an asset to the federal bench.

Justice Torres graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard University and received her J.D. from Columbia Law School. She worked for several years in private practice in some of the top law firms of New York City, practicing real estate law. Since 1992, Justice Torres has worked in the New York State Court system, first as a law clerk, and then as a judge on the New York City Civil and Criminal Courts, and lastly on the New York State Supreme Court. Having over 20 years of judicial experience, Justice Torres is well-qualified for this position. Justice Torres has demonstrated her scholarly aptitude in the legal opinions she has written as a judge. According to litigants who have appeared before her, she is a fair judge, who works hard and is always well-prepared on the bench.

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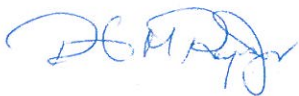
Over her many years of judicial experience, Justice Torres has developed what one litigant described as the "exact demeanor" one would expect for a federal judge. She is friendly and courteous to all lawyers and their clients who appear before her. Most attorneys who have appeared in her court hold Justice Torres in high regard.

Justice Torres also has been an active member of the local legal community, having served on the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rican Bar Association, and having mentored many Hispanic attorneys aspiring to be judges. She has won a number of awards from the Puerto Rican Bar Association, including the President's Professional Achievement Award (2006) and the Judicial Excellence Award (2010), and was the Judiciary Committee Honoree in 2012. Additionally, in 2012, Justice Torres received the Leon B. Polsky Fellowship.

We are honored to endorse Justice Torres without reservation. We are confident that Justice Torres will serve with distinction. Our endorsement is based on our internal due diligence investigation which included the examination of Justice Torres' legal competency, judicial temperament, reputation in the legal community, integrity and dedication to every endeavor that she undertakes. We respectfully urge that the U.S. Senate confirm her nomination.

The HNBA is an incorporated, not-for-profit, national membership organization that represents the interests of the more than 100,000 Hispanic attorneys, judges, law professors, legal assistants, and law students in the United States and its territories. We believe that diversity is critical for our judiciary and strongly believe that Justice Torres would serve the judiciary well, as described above. Should there be any questions, or if further information is required, please feel free to contact me through the HNBA National Office at (202) 233-4777, or directly at (952) 742-5395.

Sincerely,



Peter M. Reyes Jr.
National President, HNBA



Robert Raben
Chair, HNBA Judicial Screening Committee

cc: Miguel Alexander Pozo, HNBA President-Elect
Robert T. Maldonado, HNBA New York Regional President
Senator Chuck Schumer
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
Hon. Analisa Torres