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January 9, 2014

Senator Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

RE: Leon Rodriguez

Dear Senator Leahy:

It is my pleasure to highly recommend Leon Rodriguez to serve as Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

I have known Leon for almost seventeen years. I first met him when he served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania some years after I served as United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Leon was a standout as an Assistant United States Attorney, not only for his trial skills and knowledge of the law, but also based upon the experience he brought to his position and his leadership skills. This resulted in his selection to become First Assistant United States Attorney.

Prior to becoming an Assistant United States Attorney, he served as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice from 1994 to 1997. He also served as a Senior Assistant District Attorney at the Kings County District Attorney's Office in New York from 1988 to 1994.

In addition to being an outstanding attorney, he possessed a strong sense of fairness, justice and devotion to the United States Constitution. These attributes have served him well as Chief of Staff and Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Department of Justice from 2010 to 2011 and thereafter as Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services.

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In closing, let me say that Leon Rodriguez brings distinction to any position he accepts and devotes himself to every task he undertakes.

I recommend him without hesitation.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Alan Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "A".

J. Alan Johnson

JAJ/jh