

U.S. Department of Labor

Office of Federal Contract
Compliance Programs
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210



May 29, 2018

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
VIA EMAIL: Ted Lehman (Ted_Lehman@judiciary-rep.senate.gov)

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
VIA EMAIL: Paige Herwig (Paige_Herwig@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)

Re: Nomination of the Honorable Rodolfo "Rudy" Armando Ruiz II to the United States
District Court for the Southern District of Florida

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Feinstein:

I write to express my strong support of Judge Rudy Ruiz's nomination to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. I worked with and supervised Judge Ruiz in his federal cases when he was in the federal litigation section at the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office, and I have worked with Judge Ruiz on numerous Florida Bar-related items, including on the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration Committee. Judge Ruiz is also a proud and active resident of Coral Gables, and I have had many interactions with him as a citizen and resident of Coral Gables, including when I served as City Attorney.

Based on all of this experience with Judge Ruiz, I can say with certainty that he would make a wonderful federal district judge. He combines legal brilliance with the best possible temperament, and cares deeply about separation of powers, the rule of law, and getting legal issues right. I have read a number of opinions that he has published, and you will find with all of them a fidelity to law as written combined with an excellent style that explains to the reader in plain prose why a particular decision is being reached. This is exactly how Judge Ruiz was when he was an Assistant County Attorney, always advocating sound legal points, and expressing those points in motions and argument in a manner that was straightforward and extraordinarily persuasive. For example, Judge Ruiz was exemplary at critically analyzing a complaint, pointing out its pleading deficiencies, and preparing a strong motion raising qualified or sovereign immunity. He understood how to apply the *Twombly/Iqbal* pleading standard in a manner that would ensure that any complaint would have to be well-pled to survive his dispositive motion.

His ability to formulate this type of analysis is the exact type of analysis that district judges must employ on a daily basis in evaluating legal arguments.

Judge Ruiz is also active in the Florida Bar, presently serving as Chair of the Civil Procedure Rules Committee. I had the opportunity to serve with him on the Rules of Judicial Administration Committee, even serving as his Vice Chair on a subcommittee dedicated to improving the procedural rule related to judicial disqualifications. Judge Ruiz was masterful in identifying the important issues that the subcommittee needed to address, and helping the subcommittee reach consensus on a matter that could have created significant divisions within the subcommittee.

I also wanted to mention one more brief point. I had the opportunity to observe Judge Ruiz one afternoon several years ago when he served as a county court judge. There were many pro se parties in front of him that day. I remember being very impressed with how much thoughtfulness and respect he showed each pro se party that came before him, even when ruling against them in a particular case. I could see in Judge Ruiz then, as I continue to do now, someone who cares deeply that citizens be treated with due process and respect by the judicial system.

In the end, Judge Ruiz is someone who understands the role of a judge in our constitutional system and would adhere to that role with distinction. I believe our country would be fortunate to have Judge Ruiz serve as a federal district judge.

Sincerely,



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