

July 12, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Letter in Support of Myrna Pérez, nominee for U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

Dear Committee Members:

As religious leaders with a deep commitment to faith, justice, and our democracy, we write to you today in strong support of the nomination of Myrna Pérez as judge for United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Our organizations collectively represent a broad spectrum of people of faith, united by the theological belief that every person is created in the image of God, and every person is worthy of dignity and respect. This core tenet has been foundational in our ongoing work to preserve and protect the principles of democracy and in our efforts to preserve voting rights for those who are most at risk in our society.

We have been extremely fortunate to have Myrna Pérez as a colleague and a partner in voting rights work where she demonstrated her commitment to contesting unfair patterns and practices that disproportionately impact marginalized communities. Through her work at the Brennan Center for Justice, she tirelessly fought to combat voter suppression efforts alongside clergy, civil rights advocates, and attorneys, in the last two elections.

Myrna Pérez has been a prominent and consistent champion for voting rights. She has been vocal about our need to ensure every person's voice is heard in our representative democracy. Her reputation as a litigator and as a brilliant legal scholar is unmatched. She has demonstrated her commitment to excellence over the course of her career; having attended and taught at the nation's top schools and having argued formidable cases in federal and state court houses across the country.

Myrna Pérez is a rare blend of superior scholarly expertise and strong moral character. She is a person of deep faith who has served on the Board of Directors for Sojourners, is the president of her church council and has served her community in numerous ways. Despite the demands of

her career, she has remained active in her hometown and coordinates a meal delivery program to those facing food insecurity in Jersey City while also spearheading other anti-hunger initiatives in her community.

Ms. Pérez has organized her life and her career around her commitment to ethical standards that are informed by the core principles of her faith. A judge should be principled, ethical and unwavering in their commitment to fairness. Myrna Pérez possesses each of those traits. She is also a person who would bring relatable, real-world experience to this job.

In light of the above, we are confident that Myrna Pérez would make an outstanding judge on United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Sincerely,

Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, President, Sojourners

Jim Wallis, Inaugural McCourt School of Public Policy Chair and Founding Director of the Georgetown University Center for Faith and Justice

Rev. Terrance M. McKinley, Director of Racial Justice, Sojourners and Senior Pastor, Campbell AME Church

Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, Director, School for Conversion

Rev. Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent Emerita, The Wesleyan Church

Rev. Jeffrey Haggray, American Baptist Home Mission Societies

Rev. Ron Stief, Executive Director, National Religious Campaign Against Torture

Rev. Dr. Timothy Boddie, former General Secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention

Max Fineberg, Minister, Third Street Church of God