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## **HUDSON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

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January 18, 2022

The Honorable Richard Joseph Durbin Chairman Senate Judiciary Committee United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510 The Honorable Charles Ernest Grassley Ranking Member Senate Judiciary Committee United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

## Re: <u>Nomination of Evelyn Padin, Esq.</u> <u>United States District Court, District of New Jersey</u>

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

The Hudson County Bar Association strongly supports the appointment of Evelyn Padin to the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey and respectfully urges the Committee and full Senate to confirm her nomination.

The Hudson County Bar Association is one of the oldest bar associations in the nation, formed in 1877. It is a nonpartisan organization with members of diverse backgrounds practicing throughout Hudson County and the State of New Jersey. As an organization, our mission is to promote professionalism and camaraderie within the legal community, aid in the administration of justice, provide access to justice to people of all backgrounds, educate our members and the public on law and legal issues, and to build bridges and extend outreach to protect the community at large. With this mission in mind, we support Ms. Padin as she will undoubtedly be an exceptional addition to the federal bench.

As an attorney, Ms. Padin skillfully and objectively considers issues and applies unbiased reasoning in pursuit of a just result. These qualities will serve Ms. Padin well on the bench. We are confident that she will impartially consider matters before her. Moreover, Ms. Padin treats everyone that she encounters with dignity and respect and will continue to do so as a judge. As one of the few Latina candidates for Article III appointments, her personal experience and involvement in the New Jersey Hispanic community gives Ms. Padin a unique perspective into issues that affect the people of New Jersey, a perspective that is greatly needed on the federal bench. If appointed, Ms. Padin will faithfully execute her judicial duties and will bring greater diversity to the federal bench. This is imperative to the pursuit of equal Justice.

Evelyn Padin has steadfastly supported the Hispanic community in New Jersey not only through her involvement with our organization but through her legal practice as well. Her contributions to the legal community and to the people of the State of New Jersey are vast and her reputation is exemplary. Ms. Padin is currently the Parliamentarian of the Hudson County Bar Association where she has been a valued member of the governing board of trustees.

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She is the Past President of the New Jersey State Bar Association (2019-2020) and was the first Puerto Rican and Latina to serve in that role since its formation in 1888. With over 29 years of legal experience, she concentrates her litigation practice in criminal and civil, family and personal injury matters. She is admitted to practice before the courts in the State of New Jersey, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, The United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States. She has served as a court appointed family Mediator in State court. She received her law degree from Seton Hall Law School and her bachelor's degree from Rutgers College. She also obtained her master's degree in Social Work from Fordham University and has a background in counseling individuals, and adolescents.

Ms. Padin is a founding Member of the Justice Virginia Long Family Inns of Court in Hudson County and is designated a Trial Master. She also served as a Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Lorraine Parker Superior Court of New Jersey (Family Part-Sussex County). Since 2007, she has been a Member of the New Jersey State Bar Association-Family Law Executive Committee. She serves as Vice President and Founder of the Carevel Foundation whose mission is to educate and empower underrepresented members of the community and has partnered with organizations like New Jersey Women Rising, The Boys and Girls Club, Community Food Bank of New Jersey, and Autism Awareness of Jersey City.

She is a frequent lecturer and has actively served as a speaker on behalf of the National Council of State Bar Presidents, the New Jersey State Bar Association, and the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education. She is a Trustee At Large of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey and served on the board of New Jersey Women Lawyers. She also sat on the Board of Governors to the New Jersey Association for Justice. She was recognized as a diversity scholar by the National Council of State Bar Presidents and is a Fellow of the American Bar Association.

She currently sits on the New Jersey State Bar Association, Judicial and Prosecutorial Advisory and Nominating Committee, as well as the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. She has been appointed to the State Bar Association Meeting, Arrangements Planning Committee, and the Automobile Negligence Committee. She previously served as co-Chair of the New Jersey State Bar Diversity Committee and currently serves on the National Council of State Bar Presidents Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She is a member of the Women in the Law Section and Diversity Committee of the New Jersey State Bar Association. Ms. Padin also serves as co-chair of the Seton Hall Law Alumni, Diverse Attorneys of Seton Hall (DASH) advisory committee. She was appointed by New Jersey Speaker Craig Coughlin to serve on the advisory committee for campus sexual assault and by Governor Murphy to serve on the New Jersey Puerto Rico Commission.

Evelyn Padin's extensive accomplishments, impeccable credentials, integrity, and her long and established history of support for the community is exactly why the Hudson County Bar Association supports her appointment. Her insight, willingness to hear other views, her non-judgmental character, and thoughtfulness will serve her well as a jurist on the federal bench. To summarize, Evelyn Padin is well respected by her peers in the State of New Jersey, she is exceptionally talented, humble, and a civic minded leader, she will be an excellent jurist and bring greater diversity to our federal bench in a State that celebrates diversity.

The Hudson County Bar Association along with others supports the nomination of Evelyn Padin and respectfully encourages the Senate Judiciary Committee and the full Senate to confirm President Joseph R. Biden Jr's nomination of Evelyn Padin as a Judge of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey.

Respectfully, Evancer nicotra

Frances Nicotra 2021 HCBA President

Page 2