



June 21, 2022

VIA E-MAIL AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
711 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

*Re: Endorsement of Ana Reyes for Judge of the U.S.
District Court for the District of Columbia*

Dear Senators Durbin and Grassley:

On behalf of the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York ("LeGaL"), I write in strong support of Ana Reyes, Esq., for confirmation to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ("D.D.C. Federal Court"). Ms. Reyes is an exemplary representative of the LGBTQ+ legal community, which, together with the greater LGBTQ+ population, LeGaL strives to serve.

Beyond her robust and active connection to our community, Ms. Reyes would bring to the bench a dazzling intellect, compassion, a wealth of experience, and a demonstrated desire to serve the public.

LeGaL is one of the nation's first bar associations of the LGBTQ+ community and remains one of the largest and most active organizations of its kind in the country. LeGaL takes a keen interest in our community's representation in the Federal judiciary. Indeed, the LGBTQ+ community's historic exclusion and current underrepresentation in the judiciary continues to be disquieting. Such underrepresentation is exemplified by the fact that, if confirmed, Ms. Reyes will be the *first* openly lesbian Judge ever to serve on the D.D.C. Federal Court.

Such underrepresentation and the unfortunate "novelty" of Ms. Reyes' candidacy are underscored by a comment made by Ms. Reyes' friend's teenage daughter, who identifies as a lesbian, which Ms. Reyes shared during our interview. The young girl



stated how moved she was by Ms. Reyes' candidacy, because it showed that that LGBTQ individuals could attain prominent judicial office.

Ms. Reyes' brilliant mind and exceptional work ethic have elevated her to the most elite levels of achievement in the law. After graduating, *magna cum laude*, from Harvard Law School, where she was a member of the *Harvard Law Review*, Ms. Reyes served as a law clerk to the Hon. Amalya L. Kears, Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Thereafter, she began work at the prestigious Washington, D.C. law firm of Williams & Connolly, LLP, where she was promoted to equity Partner in 2008, served on the firm's Executive Committee from 2018 through 2021, and has served as Co-Chair of firm's well-known International Disputes Practice Group since 2014.

What makes these achievements even more impressive is that during this time, among other things, Ms. Reyes: (i) obtained a Masters of International Public Policy at the Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies; (ii) taught trial practice and international advocacy at Georgetown University Law Center and Yale Law School, respectively; and (iii) chaired the Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel for the District of the District of Columbia, which recommended five candidates for Magistrate Judge.

To date, during her tenure at Williams & Connolly, Ms. Reyes developed a nationwide practice as a Federal civil litigator and worked on high-value, high-profile, and complex national and international civil litigation and arbitration. In addition, remarkably, she was able to dedicate many thousands of hours of *pro bono* work developing a deep knowledge and skill in immigration law and, in particular, asylum law. In this regard, Ms. Reyes has represented girls fleeing genital mutilation in Ethiopia, activists fleeing political violence in Asia and Africa, and such organizations as the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, Human Rights First, and Center for Gender and Refugee Studies. Her compassion, humility, and sense of duty drives her to help others, values inculcated in her by her family from a young age.

Also, from her youth, Ms. Reyes acquired a strong reverence for the rule of law. She and her family experienced first-hand what could happen when a military dictatorship took over her native Uruguay and the rule of law was compromised. This led her family on its journey, as first-generation Americans, ultimately to Kentucky, where she grew up and went to college, before her rise to the top echelons of the legal community.

The Hon. Senators Durbin and Grassley
Re: Endorsement of Ana Reyes
June 21, 2022
Page 3



Ms. Reyes's nomination to the Federal bench would be a notable enhancement to our community's representation in the Federal judiciary and ensure that a jurist of the highest quality fills an open seat in the District of Columbia. It is my pleasure to offer her the highest endorsement. If you have any questions or if LeGaL can provide additional information, please contact me directly at (402) 613-1594.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shain Filcher", written over a horizontal line.

Shain Filcher, Esq.
Executive Director

cc: Phil Brest, Senate Judiciary Committee Chief Nominations Counsel
Kolan Davis, Senate Judiciary Committee Minority Staff Chief Counsel
Nicholas J. Ganjei, Minority Staff Chief Counsel
Vaishalee Yeldandi, Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee
Janice B. Grubin, Esq., Co-Chair, LeGaL Judiciary Committee
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Beth L. Williams, Esq., Member, LeGaL Judiciary Committee