



July 9, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Room 711, Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Room 135, Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley,

Thank you for your continued collaboration with the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC). We appreciate and value the leadership of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary on issues important to the Hispanic business community.

We write to express our support for Myrna Pérez to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and urge the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary to unanimously approve this confirmation. We believe that this candidate's expertise and experience merits serious consideration during the vetting and appointment process. If confirmed, Ms. Pérez would be the only Latina on the bench of Second Circuit Court of Appeals and the first since Justice Sonia Sotomayor moved from that circuit to the U.S. Supreme Court. As of May 2020, Latinos/as constituted only 6% of appeals judge seats and 7% of district judges, according to the Minority Corporate Counsel Association.

Ms. Pérez has unmatched legal credentials, having argued in cutting edge and complex cases in both federal and state courts across the country. She has exemplary academic experience having been a professor at both Columbia and New York University law schools. Due to her vast knowledge in various legal spectrums, she frequently speaks on law related academic and bar association panels nationally.

Her commitment to service has deeply resonated with our members, specifically, her leading roles at some of the top institutions for higher education such as Columbia and New York University. She has obtained numerous recognitions such as the "Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award" from the Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys, the "Above and Beyond Award" and "Certificate of Excellence" from the Government Accountability Office, and the "Robert F. Kennedy Award for Excellence in Public Service" from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Ms. Pérez graduated from Yale College with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, she holds a Master's of Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a Juris Doctor degree from Columbia Law School.

The USHCC actively promotes the economic growth, development, and interests of more than 4.7 million Hispanic-owned businesses that aggregately contribute over \$800 billion to the American economy every year. We also serve as a platform for our nationwide network of over 250 local Hispanic chambers of commerce.

The USHCC has confidence that success in the appointments process will evolve if our new government reflects who we are as a growing nation. Voices of diversity, especially Hispanics who account for 61 million of the U.S. population, will only help to effectuate the change needed to improve quality of life and ensure economic vitality for all Americans.



The USHCC firmly believes that having a strong Hispanic presence at every level of government will allow us to fully reflect our diversity in Hispanic communities, including gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, disability, and ethnicity. Our country will benefit from the wealth of talent and commitment that lies in the professional identities of many Hispanic public service professionals.

Our demographic accounts for approximately 20% of all Americans. However, in our modern history we have never been equitably represented in the Presidential Cabinet, our Court System, or other key political appointments. This Administration has the unique opportunity to change this and create a systemic paradigm shift of inclusion and equality in the highest ranks of our federal government.

We look forward to collaborating with you and the Office of Presidential Personnel to achieve this important goal. Furthermore, we are proud to provide necessary recommendations of qualified Hispanic professionals who are willing and ready to serve our country. If you have any questions about this candidate or the USHCC's efforts related to political appointments please do not hesitate to reach out to us at any time, we welcome the opportunity to have dialogue on this important process in American history.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ramiro Cavazos'.

Ramiro A. Cavazos
President & CEO
U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

CC: Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus