



June 23, 2009

OFFICERS

David Lizarraga
Chair

Elizabeth Gallagher
Vice Chair

Augustine Martinez
President and CEO

Elliott Rivera
Chairman Emeritus

Rafael Sanchez
Board Member Emeritus and
Finance Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Region I

Eric Carson*
Waipahu, HI
Elizabeth Gallagher
Las Vegas, NV
David Lizarraga
Los Angeles, CA
Martha Montoya
Santa Ana, CA

Region II

Dr. Gilbert Garbiso*
Pueblo, CO
Gonzalo de la Melena
Phoenix, AZ
Jerry Natividad
Denver, CO

Region III

Jeannette Hernandez Prenger
Kansas City, MO
Nina G. Vaca*
Dallas, TX

Region IV

Juventino Cano*
Aurora, IL
David Gomez
Chicago, IL
Stephen P. Gutierrez
Canton, MI

Region V

Ed Diaz*
Wheatley Heights, NY
Alex Garcia
Newark, NJ
Alfred Placeres
New York, NY
Alfredo Rodriguez
Newark, NJ

Region VI

Pedro Vanga
San Juan, PR
Ignacio R. Veloz*
San Juan, PR

* Denotes Regional Chair

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Room 455
1st and C Streets, N.E.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Alexander,

On behalf of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC)—the national representative for almost 3 million Hispanic-owned businesses—and the undersigned organizations, we write to express our support for the confirmation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. In her seventeen years of service to date as a federal trial and appellate judge, and throughout the course of her entire career, Judge Sotomayor has strongly distinguished herself through her outstanding intellectual credentials and her deep respect for the rule of law, establishing herself beyond question as fully qualified and ready to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Sotomayor will be an impartial, thoughtful, and highly-respected addition to the Court. Her unique personal background is compelling, and will be both a tremendous asset while serving on the Court and a historic inspiration to others. Her legal career further demonstrates her qualifications to serve in this position. After graduating from Yale Law School, where she served as an editor for the Yale Law Journal, Judge Sotomayor spent five years as a criminal prosecutor in Manhattan. She then spent eight years as a corporate litigator with the firm of Pavia and Harcourt, where she gained expertise in a wide range of civil law areas such as contracts and intellectual property. In 1992, on the bipartisan recommendation of her home-state Senators, President George H.W. Bush appointed her District Judge for the Southern District of New York. In recognition of her outstanding record as a trial judge, President Bill Clinton elevated her to the U.S. Court of Appeals in 1998.

During her long tenure on the federal judiciary, Judge Sotomayor has participated in thousands of cases, and has authored approximately 400 opinions at the appellate level. She has demonstrated a thorough understanding of a wide range of highly complicated legal issues, and has a strong reputation for deciding cases based upon the careful application of the facts to the law. Her record and her inspiring personal story indicate that she understands the judiciary's role in protecting the rights of all Americans, in ensuring equal justice, and respecting our Constitutional values – all within the confines of the law. Moreover, her well-reasoned and pragmatic approach to cases will allow litigants to feel, regardless of the outcome, that they were given a fair day in court.

Given her stellar record and her reputation for fairness, Judge Sotomayor has garnered broad support across partisan and ideological lines, earning glowing praise from

2175 K Street NW - Suite 100 - Washington, DC 20037 - Telephone (202) 842-1212 - Fax (202) 842-3221

<http://www.usfcc.com>

colleagues who know her best in the judiciary, law enforcement community, academia, and the legal profession. Her Second Circuit colleague (and also her former law professor) Judge Guido Calabresi describes her as “a marvelous, powerful, profoundly decent person. Very popular on the court because she listens, convinces and can be convinced -- always by good legal argument. She's changed my mind, not an insignificant number of times.” Judge Calabresi also discredited concerns about Judge Sotomayor’s bench manner, explaining that he compared “the substance and tone of her questions with those of his male colleagues and his own questions. And I must say I found no difference at all.” Judge Sotomayor’s colleague Judge Roger Miner, speaking of her ideology, argued that “I don’t think I’d go as far as to classify her in one camp or another. I think she just deserves the classification of outstanding judge.” And New York District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, her first employer out of law school, hailed her for possessing “the wisdom, intelligence, collegiality, and good character needed to fill the position for which she has been nominated.”

We urge you not to be swayed by the efforts of a small number of ideological extremists to tarnish Judge Sotomayor’s outstanding reputation as a jurist. These efforts have included blatant mischaracterizations of a handful of her rulings, as well as efforts to smear her as a racist based largely on one line in a speech that critics have taken out of context from the rest of her remarks. The simple fact is that after serving seventeen years on the federal judiciary to date, she has not exhibited any credible evidence whatsoever of having an ideological agenda, and certainly not a racist one. We hope that your committee will strongly reject the efforts at character assassination that have taken place since her nomination.

In short, Judge Sotomayor has an incredibly compelling personal story and a deep respect for the Constitution and the rule of law. Her long and rich experiences as a prosecutor, litigator, and judge match or even exceed those of any of the Justices currently sitting on the Court. Furthermore, she is fair-minded and ethical, and delivers thoughtful rulings in cases based upon their merits. For these reasons, the undersigned organizations strongly urge you to swiftly confirm Judge Sotomayor to the Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce
Asociación Interamericana de Hombres de Empresa (AIHE)
Association of Washington State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Atlantic City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Cámara de Comercio de Puerto Rico
Cámara de Comercio del Sur de Puerto Rico
Cámara de Comercio Hispana de Nebraska
Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay
Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Centro Unido de Detallistas de Puerto Rico
Colombian American Chamber of Commerce of New York
Ecuadorian-American Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Fresno Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Hampton Roads Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
High Desert Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Hispanic Business Development Network
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of East Tennessee
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Marin

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando, Inc.
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Minnesota
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Montgomery County
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Northern Illinois
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Queens
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Silicon Valley
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Yakima County
Hispanic-American Chamber of Commerce
Hobbs Hispano Chamber of Commerce
Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Latin Business Hawaii - Chamber of Commerce
Latin Chamber of Commerce of USA (CAMACOL)
Latina Chamber of Commerce Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo, Inc.
Latino Engineers, Architects & Developers Society
Latino Entrepreneurial Network of Southeastern Wisconsin, Inc.
Los Angeles Metropolitan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
McAllen Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Michiana Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Midland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Morris County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals
New York City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Inc.
Nicaraguan American Chamber of Commerce of Northern California (NICAMERCCNC) Odessa Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida, Inc.
Puerto Rico Convention Bureau
Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Rhode Island Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce
Salvadoran American Chamber of Commerce
Santa Fe Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
South Carolina Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey
The Greater Tulsa Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Trinidad-Las Animas County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Utah County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
100 Hispanic Women