



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Ruben Diaz

The New York State Senate Puerto Rican / Latino Caucus Celebrates President Obama's Nomination Today Of Justice Sonia Sotomayor To The United States Supreme Court

RUBEN DIAZ May 26, 2009

Members of the New York State Senate Puerto Rican/Latino Caucus are pleased and proud that President Obama has selected Justice Sonia Sotomayor as his nominee for the United States Supreme Court.

Chairman Senator Reverend Ruben Diaz stated: "I congratulate President Obama's selection of Justice Sonia Sotomayor as his nominee for the United States Supreme Court. It is my honor as State Senator representing the district that includes Bronxdale Housing – the very housing projects where Justice Sotomayor grew up."

"I am elated to hear that Justice Sotomayor has been nominated to the United States Supreme Court. Justice Sotomayor has a well-deserved respect as an intuitive, inspiring and just jurist,"

declared Senator Martin Malave-Dilan. "She has risen from her humble roots in The Bronx to become a well-known, respected facet of the US Court of Appeals during these last ten years. I look forward to her continued success upon confirmation as the first Latina in the US Supreme Court's history."

Upon learning of her nomination, Senator Pedro Espada stated : "President Obama has truly honored us all with the appointment of Justice Sotomayor. Our system of justice will be well served with skill, compassion and justice for all – a reality that all Americans can be proud of."

Senator Hiram Monserrate agreed : "This is one of the proudest moments for the Latino community in New York and throughout our great nation. Justice Sotomayor is the realization of all the hopes, dreams and aspirations of the Puerto Rican and broader Latino community. We salute our great President on this historic day."

An open letter dated May 11, 2009 to President Obama from the New York State Senate Puerto Rican/Latino Caucus called for the appointment of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the United States Supreme Court stated: "We are honored to be able to recommend to you someone of this caliber and urge you to appoint her as your first Supreme Court Justice. The nation will be greatly served by Judge Sotomayor for many years." This letter was signed by Senator Reverend Ruben Diaz, Chairman, Senator Pedro Espada, Senator Martin Malave-Dilan and Senator Hiram Monserrate.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor was born in New York City and raised in the Bronxdale Public Housing complex in Senator Ruben Diaz's Senatorial District. Judge Sotomayor attended Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx, then graduated Summa Cum Laude from Princeton University. Upon graduating from Yale Law School, Justice Sotomayor went on to work as a District Attorney in Manhattan, then moved on to a law firm specializing in international law. At the age of 38 she was appointed to the federal bench. Her academic preparation, coupled with her professional experiences, as well as her compelling personal background made her the best Supreme Court nominee.

For further information, please contact Marlene Cintron, Executive Director of the New York State Senate Puerto Rican / Latino Caucus at 646/295-3775.