



**New York State Senate
Puerto Rican/Latino Caucus**

**Senator Rev. Ruben Diaz
Chairman**

May 11, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to you as Senators and Latinos serving the State of New York to bring to your attention the shortage of Latinos in the Federal Judiciary, and to strongly urge you to consider Judge Sonia Sotomayor when you are deciding on your first appointment to the United States Supreme Court. As legislators, we firmly believe that academic and legal excellence should first and foremost be taken into account when creating your "short list". Judge Sotomayor graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from Princeton University and was on the Law Review while attending Yale Law School.

Latinos are the youngest ethnic population and the fastest growing. Although they already comprise over fifteen percent of the population, only seven (7) percent of the judges in the federal courts are Latino. While women and African Americans have made history as "firsts" in the Supreme Court, a Latino has yet to sit on the most important bench in this nation. Justice Sonia Sotomayor is currently serving on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She was initially appointed to a federal bench by President Bush Sr. and was later elevated to her current position by President Bill Clinton.

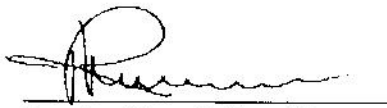
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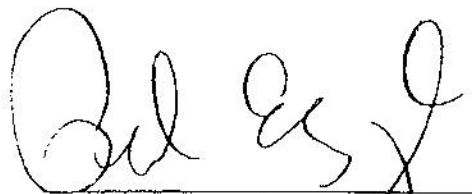
While Judge Sotomayor's academic and professional credentials are impressive, we must also highlight her life experiences. Judge Sotomayor was raised in public housing in the South Bronx by her widowed mother, who instilled in her a work ethic and commitment to excellence that has brought her to be considered for nomination to this nation's highest court. Her professional background includes work in the community as an Assistant District Attorney, as well as a number of years at an international law firm.

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 to come.

Sincerely,



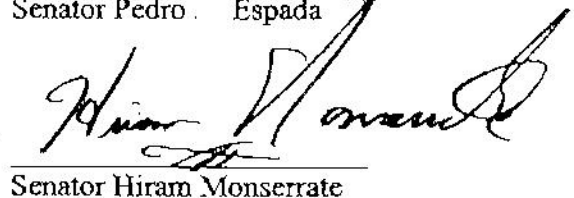
Senator Rev. Ruben Diaz



Senator Pedro Espada



Senator Martin Malave-Dilan



Senator Hiram Monserrate

cc: Sen. C. Schumer
Sen. K. Gillibrand
Sen. P. J. Leahy, Chairman of Judiciary
Hon. J. Sessions, Ranking Member of the Judiciary

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