

Hon. Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
433 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Jeffrey B. Sessions  
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
335 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Sessions:

We the undersigned professors of law write in support of the confirmation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Sotomayor will bring to the Supreme Court an extraordinary personal story, stellar academic qualifications, remarkable professional accomplishments and much needed ethnic and gender diversity. Her rise from modest circumstances speaks to the strength of her character, her tenacity and her work ethic. Her exceptional academic record at Princeton and Yale Law School is testament to her exceptional intellect and her ability to excel in highly competitive circumstances.

On the bench, Judge Sotomayor has distinguished herself as a brilliant, careful, fair-minded jurist whose rulings exhibit unflinching adherence to the rule of law. Her opinions reflect careful attention to the facts of each case and a reading of the law that demonstrates fidelity to the text of statutes and the Constitution. She pays close attention to precedent and has proper respect for the role of courts and the other branches of government in our society. She has not been reluctant to protect core constitutional values and has shown a commitment to providing equal justice for all who come before her.

Judge Sotomayor's approach to the law reflects her rich and diverse professional career. She served as a prosecutor in the Manhattan District Attorneys office, and as a corporate litigator in private practice. During this period, she was deeply engaged in public activities, including service on the New York Mortgage Agency and the New York City Campaign Finance Board, as well as serving on the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Her career won bi-partisan respect, which led George H.W. Bush to nominate her to the federal district court and a majority Democratic Senate to confirm her in 1992. Her performance on the district court solidified that bipartisan respect and President Clinton nominated her to the Second Circuit. She was confirmed by a majority Republican Senate in 1998.

We are confident that Judge Sotomayor's brilliance, her character forged by her extraordinary background and experience, and her profound respect for the law and the craft of judging make her an exceptionally well-qualified nominee to the Supreme Court and we urge her speedy confirmation.

Sincerely,