

August 2, 2021

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Committee Members:

As national organizations that care about the federal courts and the judges who serve for lifetime appointments, we write in strong support of the nomination of Myrna Pérez to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Ms. Pérez is exceptionally well-qualified to serve on the Second Circuit, and she would bring vital diversity and professional experience to the bench. Her career is long and impressive — she has argued complex cases in federal and state court houses all across the country, taught at both Columbia University and New York University School of Laws, and testified before Congress and several state legislatures.

As she demonstrated during her confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Ms. Pérez has the mind, temperament, and dedication to constitutional values that exemplify the kind of jurist the American people need on our federal courts. She has devoted her skills as a lawyer to protecting our democracy and the ability of all Americans to participate equally in it, while devoting her time as a community member to leadership with her church, coordinating a crew of volunteers to provide meals to food-insecure persons, spearheading other anti-hunger initiatives in her community, and organizing a popular after-school program at her son's school.

The daughter of Mexican immigrants and the first in her birth family to graduate from college, Ms. Pérez's real world experience and civil rights background would bring a valuable perspective to the Second Circuit. Indeed, if confirmed, Ms. Pérez would be the only Latina on the court and the first since Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor was elevated. This is critical given that Latinos make up only 8 percent of active federal judges in the nation. In order for our courts to work for all of us, they must reflect the communities they serve. Ms. Pérez's nomination, while long overdue, is an important step toward making sure our courts look like America.

Ms. Pérez has dedicated her career to safeguarding our democracy and freedom to vote. As the head of the Brennan Center's Voting Rights and Election Program, she served as counsel in more than 50 cases in state and federal courts, including the US Supreme Court and numerous federal circuit courts of appeal. As a legal academic and advocate, Ms. Pérez has studied and understands the importance of ensuring free and fair elections for all and the freedom to vote. She has worked closely with a broad range of faith leaders representing diverse theological and political perspectives from around the country to advance voting rights restoration to citizens with past criminal convictions. Her extensive experience as a litigator and legal academic make her extraordinarily qualified to serve on the Second Circuit. In addition, Ms. Pérez's background in voting rights and election law is especially notable, as civil rights lawyers are broadly underrepresented on the federal bench.

We need judges who will deliver equal justice for all Americans. Based on her deep understanding of the law and its impact on people's lives, we have no doubt Ms. Pérez will work tirelessly to ensure equal justice for all from day one. We urge you to swiftly confirm Myrna Pérez to the Second Circuit.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO
African American Ministers In Action
Alliance for Justice
Americans for Democratic Action
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Avodah
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
Center for American Progress
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Demand Justice
Demos
Earthjustice
End Citizens United / Let America Vote Action Fund
FairVote
Feminist Majority
Feminist Majority Foundation
Hispanic Federation
Hispanic National Bar Association
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda
Keshet
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Lawyers for Good Government
League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters of the US
MALDEF
Masjid Muhammad, The Nation's Mosque
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
NALEO Educational Fund
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Jewish Women
National Education Association
National Organization for Women
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Urban League
National Women's Law Center
People For the American Way
People's Parity Project
PFLAG National
Public Wise
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Rock the Vote
Secure Elections Network
Service Employees International Union

Sojourners
SPLC Action Fund
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The Workers Circle
Time's Up Now
United State of Women
Vote Run Lead