

June 1, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
361-A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
433 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Sessions  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
335 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Leahy, and Ranking Member Sessions:

As former law clerks to the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor, we write this letter to offer our enthusiastic and wholehearted support for President Obama's nomination of Judge Sotomayor to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States. Our group includes federal prosecutors and other government lawyers; private law firm partners and in-house corporate counsel; and legal academics and public interest lawyers. Although our professional experiences are diverse, we are united in our strong belief that Judge Sotomayor is a brilliant and first-rate judge who is an ideal selection for our nation's highest court.

Judge Sotomayor's professional qualifications are indisputably stellar. If confirmed, Judge Sotomayor would bring more federal judicial experience to the Supreme Court than any Supreme Court Justice in a century. Judge Sotomayor's three-decade career as a big-city prosecutor, corporate litigator, federal trial judge, and federal appellate judge has equipped her with a wide range of experience in nearly every area of law and uniquely qualifies her for this position.

As former law clerks to Judge Sotomayor, each of us can attest to her intellectual prowess, extraordinary work ethic, and commitment to the rule of law. Working for Judge Sotomayor is an awe-inspiring experience. We each had the privilege of working closely with her as she confronted, and resolved, incredibly complex and intellectually demanding legal challenges. Judge Sotomayor approaches each case with an open mind and arrives at her decision only after carefully considering all of the pertinent facts and applicable rules of law. She brings to each case not only her formidable intellect, but also her practical judgment, honed from years of real-world law practice and experience solving difficult problems as a federal district court and appellate judge. Numerous commentators have remarked upon Judge Sotomayor's wealth of judicial experience. This experience is clear whenever she takes the bench. Judge Sotomayor is thoughtful, engaged, and well-prepared during oral argument, showing an extraordinary grasp of the factual details and legal nuances of her cases. She is a judge who is tough and fair, yet highly respectful of her colleagues in the judiciary (including those with whom she sometimes disagrees) and the litigants appearing before her. Nor does she ever lose sight of the real-world impact of her decisions. Our view of Judge Sotomayor mirrors her reputation among her colleagues on the bench and among members of the bar who have practiced before her, who widely respect her intellectual dynamism, collegiality, and balanced, fair jurisprudence.

Judge Sotomayor's compelling life story has by now been widely reported. For those of us who know her well, she is truly an inspiration, and we know that she will serve as a superb role model for countless young people. While never forgetting her beginnings, Judge Sotomayor has achieved so much in the best American tradition – through extraordinary talent and tireless hard work. Whether prosecuting felonies as a district attorney, litigating complex commercial disputes as a law firm partner, or sitting as a trial or appellate judge, she has always shown a commitment to understanding the concerns of individuals from all walks of life, and to ensuring that all Americans have access to justice.

Judge Sotomayor's personal dynamism is also legendary. She teaches at New York's top law schools, participates in charitable and community events, and maintains legions of friendships. She is a wonderful colleague admired by her fellow judges, and is a committed mentor to her clerks. As former law clerks, we feel especially privileged to be part of her extended "family." Judge Sotomayor has officiated at our weddings, celebrated the births of our children, and has cheered us on to achieve personal and professional success.

Judge Sotomayor is an extraordinary judge and an extraordinary woman. Her combination of intellect, integrity, and vast experience will make her an outstanding Supreme Court Justice. We unconditionally support her nomination and urge you to confirm her as the next Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Adam Abensohn  
Adam Abensohn  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1996-97, 1998-99

/s/ Alison Nodvin Barkoff  
Alison Nodvin Barkoff  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2000-01

/s/ Julie H. Becker  
Julie H. Becker  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1999-2000

/s/ Edward J.W. Blatnik  
Edward J. W. Blatnik  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2000-01

/s/ Hannah Y.S. Chanoine  
Hannah Shay Chanoine  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2004-05

/s/ Kevin E. Collins  
Kevin E. Collins  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2002-03

/s/ Melissa Lynn Elstein  
Melissa Lynn Elstein  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1998-99

/s/ Tracy M. Flynn  
Tracy M. Flynn  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1994-95

/s/ Kimberly A. Gahan  
Kimberly A. Gahan  
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/s/ Jessica Hertz  
Jessica Hertz  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2007-08

/s/ Robin Kar  
Robin Kar  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1998-99

/s/ Curtis A. Kin  
Curtis A. Kin  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1999-2000

/s/ Andrew B. Ayers  
Andrew B. Ayers  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2005-06

/s/ David A. Battat  
David A. Battat  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1994-95

/s/ Molly Biklen  
Molly Biklen  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2005-06

/s/ Charu A. Chandrasekhar  
Charu A. Chandrasekhar  
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s/ Matthew Colangelo  
Matthew Colangelo  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2002-03

/s/ Glenn C. Edwards  
Glenn C. Edwards  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1997-98, 2001-02

/s/ Joseph Evall  
Joseph Evall  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1992-93

/s/ Cary Franklin  
Cary Franklin  
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/s/ Jeff Grossman  
Jeff Grossman  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2000-01

/s/ Kathy J. Holub  
Kathy J. Holub  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1995-96

/s/ Mike Kavey  
Mike Kavey  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2004-05

/s/ Timothy Lambert  
Timothy Lambert  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2000-01

/s/ James R. Levine  
James R. Levine  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2001-02

/s/ Julia Tarver Mason  
Julia Tarver Mason  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1996-97

/s/ Sarah S. Normand  
Sarah S. Normand  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1998-99

/s/ Xavier Romeu-Matta  
Xavier Romeu-Matta  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1992-93

/s/ Melissa Murray  
Melissa Murray  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2003-04

/s/ David S. Rubenstein  
David S. Rubenstein  
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/s/ Alan E. Schoenfeld  
Alan E. Schoenfeld  
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/s/ Danielle Feldman Tarantolo  
Danielle Feldman Tarantolo  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2006-07

/s/ Jeannette Vargas  
Jeannette Vargas  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2001-02

/s/ Natalie R. Williams  
Natalie R. Williams  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1993-94

/s/ Lisa Zornberg  
Lisa Zornberg  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1997-98

/s/ Jack A. Levy  
Jack A. Levy  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1999-2000

/s/ Amy Carper Mena  
Amy Carper Mena  
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/s/ Jenny Rivera  
Jenny Rivera  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 1993-94

/s/ David Moskowitz  
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/s/ Claude Platton  
Claude Platton  
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s/ Rose Saxe  
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/s/ Robert Spoo  
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/s/ Travis J. Tu  
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/s/ Brent Wible  
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/s/ Kyle C. Wong  
Kyle C. Wong  
Clerk for Judge Sotomayor, 2006-07

cc:

Senator Herb Kohl  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Russell D. Feingold  
Senator Charles E. Schumer  
Senator Richard J. Durbin  
Senator Benjamin L. Cardin  
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse  
Senator Ron Wyden  
Senator Amy Klobuchar  
Senator Edward E. Kaufman  
Senator Arlen Specter

Senator Orrin G. Hatch  
Senator Charles E. Grassley  
Senator Jon Kyl  
Senator Lindsey Graham  
Senator John Cornyn  
Senator Tom Coburn