



**PACE LAW SCHOOL**  
P A C E U N I V E R S I T Y

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June 23, 2009

Senator Patrick J. Leahy  
Chair of the Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jeff Sessions  
Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Leahy & Sessions:

We, the faculty members of Pace Law School, write to support our friend and colleague, Judge Sonia Sotomayor. We are African-American, Latino, and Caucasian; men and women; liberals and conservatives. What we have in common is the privilege to be among those who are teaching the next generation of lawyers. It is in that pursuit that we have come to know and appreciate Judge Sotomayor. Each year she takes time from a horrendous schedule to teach classes for students in our Federal Honors program and to mentor one of those students as an intern in her chambers.

Having a law student in chambers is not the addition of another hand that can help with the work. Done properly, it is the addition of an obligation that takes time and attention with little return other than the satisfaction of providing the student with an unmatched opportunity. Judge Sotomayor has taken on that task in a way that provides a window into the kind of person she is and, to our minds, the kind of asset she will be to the Court and the country.

It would be easy for a judge to provide a desk for an intern and to assign a law clerk to shepherd an intern through a semester and to do nothing more. Such an experience would be valuable to the intern, but it is nothing like the experiences had by the Pace interns fortunate enough to be in Judge Sotomayor's chambers. She works with the interns personally, making assignments, critiquing their work, and spending the personal time to serve as a mentor throughout the entire semester. Each year the student who has been in Judge Sotomayor's chambers has returned with stories not only of the hard work they had the opportunity to do and the rigor with which Judge Sotomayor critiqued it, but of the incredible amount of personal time and attention she took with them. That kind of interest in and attention to the education of a second-year law student from a sitting federal appellate judge is both rare and remarkable.

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There are many qualities that make for a fine Supreme Court Justice. You have already heard from many of Judge Sotomayor's unmatched experience in the federal legal system, the high quality of her legal work, and the tremendous strength of her intellect, all of which mark her potential to be an outstanding Justice. We believe that character is among the most important qualities for the high office of Supreme Court Justice. With apologies to the semantic technicality, we have known Judge Sotomayor as a mensch!

Judge Sotomayor's character and career are exemplary of what our country should see in a Supreme Court nominee. We are confident that a fair hearing will give the country a portrait of this wonderfully qualified judge and will lead to her expeditious confirmation.

Yours truly,

Michelle S. Simon, Dean	Horace E. Anderson, Jr.	Barbara L. Atwell	Adele Bernhard
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Gayl S. Westerman			

\* Professor Mushlin has recused himself from this letter because of his membership on the New York City Bar Executive Committee.