

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

**Re: The Nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court of the United States**

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

We are women litigators in private practice who appear before the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and other district courts in our Circuit.<sup>1</sup> We write to voice our enthusiastic support for the nomination to the Supreme Court of Sonia Sotomayor, based on her proven intellect, her broad-based legal and judicial experience, and her character.

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<sup>1</sup> We write in our individual capacities and on behalf of no person or entity other than ourselves. Firm names and addresses are provided for identification purposes only.

**Re: The Nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court of the United States**  
Page 2

Judge Sotomayor excelled in school, graduating valedictorian of Cardinal Spellman High School in New York. At Princeton University, she was a co-recipient of the M. Taylor Pyne Prize, the highest honor Princeton awards to an undergraduate, graduating *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa. At Yale Law School, Judge Sotomayor served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal and as managing editor of the Yale Studies in World Public Order.

Judge Sotomayor became an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan in 1979, where she tried dozens of criminal cases over five years. She entered private practice in 1984, becoming a partner at the firm of Pavia & Harcourt LLP as a litigator, handling cases involving issues from intellectual property to banking, real estate and contract law.

Her judicial service began in October 1992 with her appointment to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York by President George H.W. Bush. From 1992 to 1998, she presided over approximately 450 cases. While in the district court, Judge Sotomayor developed a reputation as a no-nonsense judge who was both tough and even handed. There, with her experience as a New York City prosecutor and a lawyer, she was focused on the issues, without losing sight of the fact that litigants before her often faced the loss of liberty.

President Clinton appointed Judge Sotomayor to the Second Circuit in 1998. On that court, she has participated in over 3000 panel decisions and orders, authoring over 230 majority opinions. In the Circuit, Judge Sotomayor's years of experience were quickly evident in the performance of her new duties. Her approach is professional, and she treats all parties respectfully. Her opinions speak for themselves and attest to her unquestioned commitment to excellence and the rule of law.

Judge Sotomayor is also a Lecturer at Columbia University Law School and was an adjunct professor at New York University Law School until 2007. She has served as a member of the Second Circuit Task Force on Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts and was formerly on the Boards of Directors of the New York Mortgage Agency, the New York City Campaign Finance Board, and the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund. A project to which she has devoted her attention is the Development School for Youth program, which sponsors workshops for inner-city high school students. In addition to the workshop experience, each student is offered a summer job by one of the corporate sponsors of the program. We also applaud the fact that almost one-half of her law clerks have been women, giving them an experience that will serve them throughout their lives.

We believe that Judge Sotomayor's character and experiences – educational, legal, and judicial – make her uniquely qualified for the challenges she will meet in the Supreme Court. She is an extraordinary judge and will make an extraordinary justice.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Re: The Nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court of the United States  
Page 3

Respectfully submitted,

Diana D. Parker, Esq.  
Law Offices of Diana D. Parker  
162 East 80<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York 10075

Vivian Shevitz, Esq.  
46 Truesdale Lake Drive  
South Salem, New York 10590

Dawn M. Cardi, Esq.  
Dawn M. Cardi & Associates  
Two Park Avenue,  
New York, New York 10016

Susan G. Kellman, Esq.  
Law Offices of Susan G. Kellman  
25 8th Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11217

Pamela Rogers Chepiga, Esq.  
Allen & Overy  
1221 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10020

Roberta A. Kaplan, Esq.  
Paul Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP  
1285 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10019-6064

Caroline Rule, Esq.  
Kostelanetz & Fink, LLP  
7 World Trade Center  
New York, New York 10007

Isabelle A. Kirshner, Esq.  
Clayman & Rosenberg  
305 Madison Avenue  
New York,, New York 10165

Donna R. Newman, Esq.  
Buttermore Newman Dellanney & Foltz, LLP  
111 Broadway, Suite 1805  
New York, New York 10006

Katherine L. Pringle, Esq.  
Friedman Kaplan Seiler & Adelman LLP  
1633 Broadway  
New York, New York 10019-6708

Catherine M. Foti, Esq.  
Morvillo, Abramowitz, Grand,  
Iason, Anello & Bohrer, P.C.  
565 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

Joyce C. London, Esq.  
Joyce C. London, P.C.  
20 Vesey Street  
New York, New York 10007

Audrey Strauss, Esq.  
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP  
One New York Plaza  
New York, New York 10004

Anne J. D'Elia, Esq.  
Law Offices of Lawrence S. Goldman  
500 Fifth Avenue, 29th Floor  
New York, New York 10110

Marjorie J. Pearce, Esq.  
Stillman, Friedman & Shechtman, P.C.  
425 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Catherine L. Redlich, Esq.  
Driscoll & Redlich  
521 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10175

**Re: The Nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court of the United States**  
Page 4

Deborah A. Schwartz, Esq.  
210 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
New York, New York 10001

Kathryn Keneally, Esq.  
Fulbright & Jaworski LLP  
666 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10103

Andrea Likornik Weiss, Esq.  
Levi Lubarsky & Feigenbaum LLP  
1185 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036

Louise Sommers, Esq.  
Miller Korzenik Sommers LLP  
488 Madison Avenue  
New York New York 10022-5702

Jacqueline C. Wolff, Esq.  
Covington & Burling LLP  
620 Eighth Avenue  
New York, New York 10018

Pamela D. Hayes, Esq.  
Law Offices of Pamela D. Hayes  
501 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

Mala Ahuja Harker, Esq.  
Friedman Kaplan Seiler & Adelman LLP  
1633 Broadway  
New York, New York 10019

Eridania Perez, Esq.  
Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP  
1301 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10019

Mindy Heller Chettih, Esq.  
Cohen Pontani Lieberman & Pavane LLP  
551 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10176

Anne E. Beaumont, Esq.  
Friedman Kaplan Seiler & Adelman LLP  
1633 Broadway  
New York, New York 10019-6708

Tracy Sivitz, Esq.  
Hafetz & Necheles  
500 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10110

Magda M. Jimenez Train, Esq.  
Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP  
575 Lexington Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Patricia A. Pileggi, Esq.  
Schiff Hardin, LLP  
900 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Alex Young K. Oh, Esq.  
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison  
LLP  
2001 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-1047

Melinda Sarafa, Esq.  
Sarafa Law LLC  
80 Pine Street  
New York, New York 10005

Beth D. Jacob, Esq.  
Schiff Hardin LLP  
900 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Re: The Nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court of the United States  
Page 5

Karla G. Sanchez, Esq.  
Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP  
1133 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036

Joy L. Vastola, Esq.  
Law Offices of Joy L. Vastola  
61 Broadway  
New York, New York 10006

Tanya Chutkan, Esq.  
Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP  
5301 Wisconsin Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20015

Alexandra A.E. Shapiro, Esq.  
Macht, Shapiro, Arato & Isserles LLP  
1114 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036

Linda Imes, Esq.  
Spears & Imes LLP  
51 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10010

Laura A. Brevetti, Esq.  
230 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10169

Marjorie E. Berman, Esq.  
Krantz & Berman LLP  
747 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

Marion Seltzer, Esq.  
1725 York Avenue  
New York, New York 10128

Wendy H. Schwartz, Esq.  
Reed Smith LLP  
599 Lexington Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Annemarie Hassett, Esq.  
Goodwin Procter LLP  
The New York Times Building  
620 Eighth Avenue  
New York, New York 10018-1405

Denise A. Rubin, Esq.  
Napoli Bern Ripka, LLP  
350 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10118

Lisa Breier Urban, Esq.  
Breier Deutschmeister Urban & Fromme, P.C.  
111 Broadway  
New York, New York 10006

Miriam M. Breier, Esq.  
Breier Deutschmeister Urban & Fromme, P.C.  
111 Broadway  
New York, New York 10006

Donna L. Gordon, Esq.  
Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP  
1301 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10019

Sarah E. Zgliniec, Esq.  
Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP  
1133 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036

Debra A. Karlstein, Esq.  
Spears & Imes LLP  
51 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10010

Lisa Cahill, Esq.  
Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP  
One Battery Park Plaza  
New York, New York 10004

**Re: The Nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court of the United States**  
Page 6

Ann M. Galvani, Esq.  
Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP  
333 Main Street  
Armonk, New York 10504

Penny Shane, Esq.  
Sullivan & Cromwell  
125 Broad Street  
New York, New York 10004

Joyce B. David, Esq.  
16 Court Street  
Brooklyn, N.Y., 11241

Ellen V. Holloman, Esq.  
Sullivan & Cromwell  
125 Broad Street  
New York, New York 10004

Marilyn C. Kunstler, Esq.  
Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP  
575 Lexington Ave.  
New York, New York 10022

Judith L. Mogul, Esq.  
Morvillo, Abramowitz, Grand,  
Iason, Anello & Bohrer, P.C.  
565 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

Melissa Dassori, Esq.  
Brune & Richard, LLP  
80 Broad Street  
New York, New York 10004

Diana L. Erbsen, Esq.  
DLA Piper LLP (US)  
1251 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10020-1104

Maria C. Marinello, Esq.  
220 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10001

Lisa A. Ferrari, Esq.  
Cohen Pontani Lieberman & Pavane LLP  
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210  
New York, New York 10176

Celia Goldwag Barenholtz, Esq.  
Cooley Godward Kronish LLP  
1114 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036

Sharon Nelles, Esq.  
Sullivan & Cromwell  
125 Broad Street  
New York, New York 10004

Marion Bachrach, Esq.  
DePetrus & Bachrach LLP  
240 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Susan R. Necheles, Esq.  
Hafetz & Necheles  
500 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10110

Ellen Yaroshefsky, Esq.  
Cardozo Law School  
55 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10003

Helen A. Gredd, Esq.  
Lankler Sifert & Wohl LLP  
500 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10110

Nancy Kestenbaum, Esq.  
Covington & Burling LLP  
620 Eighth Avenue  
New York, New York 10018

Linda C. Goldstein, Esq.  
Covington & Burling LLP  
620 Eighth Avenue  
New York, New York 10018

**Re: The Nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court of the United States**  
Page 7

Hillary Richard, Esq.  
Brune & Richard, LLP  
80 Broad Street  
New York, New York 10004

Tricia Bloomer, Esq.  
Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP  
10 North Pearl Street  
Albany, New York 12207

Keisha-Ann G. Gray, Esq.  
Proskauer Rose LLP  
1585 Broadway  
New York, New York 10036-8299

Nina Beattie, Esq.  
Brune & Richard, LLP  
80 Broad Street  
New York, New York 10004

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