

# City of Miami, Florida

MANUEL A. DIAZ  
MAYOR



3500 PAN AMERICAN DRIVE  
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33133  
(305) 250-5300  
FAX (305) 854-4001

June 1, 2009

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

Dear Chairman Leahy:

As mayor of a large metropolitan city with a diverse population who sees the effect of our judicial system on our citizens every day, I commend President Obama for the nomination of federal appellate Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Sonia Sotomayor's distinguished thirty-year career and inspiring personal background make her the most capable nominee for our country's highest Court. This historic nomination reaffirms the President's commitment to represent diversity in all sectors of our national government. With Judge Sotomayor's nomination, President Obama achieves not only diversity in background and ethnicity, but also diversity of experience, character and judgment.

During the past three decades, Judge Sotomayor has worked at almost every level of the judicial system, gaining a depth of experience and perspective that will make our Supreme Court a more just and effective body of law. If confirmed, she would bring more experience to the bench than anyone currently serving on the United States Supreme Court had when they were appointed.

Judge Sotomayor's proven professional excellence and her extraordinary story of truly living the American Dream, from public housing to Ivy League graduate and federal circuit court judge, is an inspiration for all Americans.

As the first American of Hispanic heritage to be nominated to the Supreme Court, she represents the largest minority group in the United States, a group whose experiences are close to immigrant life and to the daily struggles of working families. This combination of legal excellence and a deep understanding of the labors of striving Americans is exactly the blend of experience that should have a voice among the justices of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Manuel A. Diaz". The signature is written in a cursive style.