



PRESIDENT
RAKIM BROOKS

CHAIR
PAULETTE MEYER

May 11, 2022

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee

Dear Chairman Durbin:

On behalf of the Alliance for Justice (AFJ), a national association representing more than 130 public interest and civil rights organizations, I write to strongly support the confirmation of Nancy Maldonado to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Ms. Maldonado has dedicated her career to ensuring that our legal system works for all, not just the wealthy and powerful. After graduating from Columbia Law School in 2001 and completing a clerkship in the Northern District of Illinois with Judge Rubén Castillo, Ms. Maldonado joined civil rights firm Miner, Barnhill, & Galland in 2003. Ms. Maldonado has worked at the firm ever since, earning a promotion to firm partner in 2010.

Ms. Maldonado has spent almost two decades advocating on behalf of workers. At the firm, she has represented workers in both class actions and individual suits. For example, in *Hernandez v. Kavacevich*, she represented seasonal farmworkers who sued their employer for requiring them to perform unpaid, off-the-clock work in the morning before their shifts, ultimately winning a settlement with significant compensation for the workers. In *Abreu v. City of Chicago*, Ms. Maldonado represents a Puerto Rican bricklayer who faced severe discrimination at work when a supervisor called him racial slurs and tried to push him into a six-foot hole on a jobsite. Far too few federal judges have experience representing workers in such critical cases. Ms. Maldonado would bring a valuable perspective to the bench.

In addition to her work as a litigator, Ms. Maldonado has been deeply involved in community and government service. She's been a member of the Board of Directors of La Casa Norte, an organization that serves homeless youth and families; Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights; and Aprna Ghar, a human rights organization working to end gender-based violence. She has also been appointed to serve in government on numerous occasions. Most recently, she was chosen by the Illinois Attorney General to serve as a Special Assistant Attorney General investigating consumer fraud.

Eleven Dupont Circle NW, Suite 500 | Washington, DC 20036 | www.afj.org | t:202-822-6070

Field Offices

Dallas | Houston | Los Angeles | San Francisco

In addition to her extensive legal background, Ms. Maldonado will bring much needed diversity to the Seventh Circuit. She would be the first Latina to serve as a federal judge in the state of Illinois *and* the first Latina to serve as a federal judge in the Seventh Circuit. While Latinx people make up 18 percent of the United States, only 7 percent of our federal judges are Latinx. We are encouraged that, upon Ms. Maldonado's confirmation, the Seventh Circuit and federal judiciary will better represent the rich diversity of our country.

Given her exemplary qualifications, the Senate should expeditiously confirm Nancy Maldonado to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Rakim A.D. Brooks

Rakim Brooks
President, Alliance for Justice