

# *Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated*

*A Public Service Sorority Founded in 1913*

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1707 New Hampshire Avenue N.W. ▲ Washington, DC 20009 ▲ (202) 986-2400 ▲ Telefax (202) 986-2513

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Dear Sorors:

On May 26, 2009, President Barack Obama nominated Judge Sonia Sotomayor for appointment to our nation's highest judicial body, the U.S. Supreme Court. This historic nomination positions her to be the first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice in our nation's history and moves the high court toward representing the diversity of America. Additionally, if confirmed, she will join Justice Ruth Joan Bader Ginsburg in providing female perspective on the many important decisions of the court.

With over 30 years of legal experience covering almost every aspect of the law, Judge Sotomayor is a distinguished jurist and more than qualified to serve on the Supreme Court. A graduate of Princeton University and Yale Law School, she started her career as Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan in 1979, where she tried dozens of criminal cases over five years. Before she was promoted to the Second Circuit by President Clinton, she was appointed to the District Court for the Southern District of New York by President George H.W. Bush. She would replace Justice Souter as the only Justice with experience as a trial judge. Judge Sotomayor served 11 years on the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and if confirmed, Sotomayor would bring more federal judicial experience to the Supreme Court than any justice in 100 years. Her professional credentials are outstanding and her judicial record demonstrates a commitment to ensuring equal opportunity, upholding civil rights and guaranteeing social justice.

Like many of us, Judge Sotomayor has lived the American dream of growing up with very little, yet managing to excel and become successful. Born to a Puerto Rican family, she grew up in a public housing project in the South Bronx. Her parents moved to New York during World War II – her mother served in the Women's Auxiliary Corps during the war. Her father, a factory worker with a third-grade education, died when Sotomayor was nine years old. After her father's death, Sotomayor turned to books for solace and her love of reading eventually lead her to study law.

We are joining the White House Office for Public Engagement, People for the American Way, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR), NCLR (National Council of La Raza), NAACP, National Urban League and many other organizations in support of Judge Sotomayor's nomination. We must do all that we can to make her confirmation process as expeditious and smooth as possible. Contact your member of the U.S. Senate via email and ask that he or she vote to confirm this worthy nominee. To find your senator's email address or fax number, use the following link <http://www.senate.gov/> or call (202)224-3121. Please use any portion of the background information in this letter and the attached document to assist you in developing your correspondence. After you contact your senator, go to [www.deltasigmatheta.org](http://www.deltasigmatheta.org) and report your efforts.

Since its inception, Delta has been a champion for civil rights and equal protection under the law for all humans, regardless of race or sex. The confirmation of Judge Sotomayor will ensure that as we continue our fight for social justice and equal protection, we will have a fair and balanced justice who understands the importance of maintaining these critical legal protections.

Let your voice be heard!

With a Servant's Heart,

*Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre*

Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre  
National President

## **TALKING POINTS FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF JUDGE SONIA SOTOMAYOR AS ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT**

### **TIPS FOR CALLING YOUR LEGISLATOR**

- Let the person on the line know your name and that you are a constituent of the Senator.
- Explain that you support the nomination of Sonia Sotomayor.
- Speak in your own words, but use any of the talking points below as a guide.
- Thank the person for taking your call and let them know that you will be following the confirmation process.

### **TALKING POINTS**

- Judge Sotomayor is extremely qualified, has the intellect and integrity to make fair and just decisions as an accomplished jurist.
- 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.
- Top legal experts have hailed her as "one of the ablest federal judges currently sitting" for her thoughtful opinions and as "a role model of aspiration, discipline, commitment, intellectual prowess and integrity."
- In 1998, Judge Sotomayor became the first Latina to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, one of the most demanding circuits in the country. She has participated in over 3000 panel decisions and authored roughly 400 opinions, handling difficult issues of constitutional law, to complex procedural matters, to lawsuits involving complicated business organizations.
- Judge Sotomayor is widely admired as a judge with a sophisticated grasp of legal doctrine and a keen awareness of the law's impact on everyday life. She understands that upholding the rule of law means going beyond legal theory to ensure consistent, fair, common-sense application of the law to real-world facts.
- Judge Sotomayor is precisely the kind of nominee we need – one who, as President Obama described, 'has the intellectual firepower but also a little bit of a common touch and has a practical sense of how the world works.'
- From her former law clerks: "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."
- 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.
- If confirmed, Judge Sotomayor would have the most federal judicial experience of any starting Supreme Court Justice in a hundred years.
- With Judge Sotomayor's nomination, President Obama achieves not only diversity in background and ethnicity, but also diversity of experience, character and judgment.