



**Washington, D.C.  
Regional Office**  
1016 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: 202.293.2828

June 19, 2024

Re: Support for Confirmation of Judge Nancy L. Maldonado to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

*Sent via email*

Dear Senator:

**National  
Headquarters  
Los Angeles  
Regional Office**  
634 S. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90014  
Tel: 213.629.2512

On behalf of MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund), I respectfully request that you confirm Judge Nancy L. Maldonado of Chicago, Illinois, to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Founded in 1968, MALDEF is the nation's leading Latino legal civil rights organization. Described as the "law firm of the Latino community," MALDEF promotes social change in the areas of immigrant rights, employment, education, voting rights, and freedom from open bias.

**Chicago  
Regional Office**  
11 East Adams  
Suite 700  
Chicago, IL 60603  
Tel: 312.427.0701

The confirmation of Judge Maldonado to the Seventh Circuit would be both historic and long overdue. As the first Latina judge on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois—or indeed on any Article III federal court in Illinois—she has brought increased and vitally necessary diversity to the federal judiciary in Illinois, a state with the fifth largest Latino population in the United States. If confirmed, Judge Maldonado will be the first Latino/a judge on the Seventh Circuit.

**San Antonio  
Regional Office**  
110 Broadway  
Suite 300  
San Antonio, TX 78205  
Tel: 210.224.5476

Judge Maldonado is immensely qualified to serve as a circuit court judge. She has served as a judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois since 2022. Prior to her appointment, she was an experienced litigator at the law firm Miner, Barnhill & Galland, where put both her legal skills and her sense of justice to use. She represented clients who faced discrimination and unfair labor practices, and has represented plaintiffs in numerous civil rights, employment, housing and fraud cases. A graduate of Harvard College and Columbia Law School, Judge Maldonado was a clerk for Chief Judge Rubén Castillo of the Northern District of Illinois and has an extensive list of professional accomplishments and accolades that prove both her strength as an attorney and her standing in the Illinois legal community. Judge Maldonado's sterling reputation and commitment to the law have been a great benefit to her on the federal bench and will continue to do so if she is confirmed to the Seventh Circuit: parties appearing in her courtroom will know that fairness and justice will drive her decisions.

**Sacramento  
Policy Office**  
1512 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Tel: 916.444.3031

Judge Maldonado was a highly regarded litigator, and her support for—and commitment to—her community is also worth noting. She served on the Board of

Directors of Apna Ghar (Our Home) fighting gender violence in immigrant communities. She served on the Legal Advisory Board of ARISE Worker Center. Before that, she served on the Board of Directors of La Casa Norte, which supports youth and families who lack housing. Having served on the Board of Director of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, she formerly served as its Board President. Quite simply, Judge Maldonado gives back to those around her, and understands the various legal issues and challenges that people face from all different walks of life. She would be an excellent choice to be the Seventh Circuit's first Latina judge.

Equitable representation among the judiciary is critical for ensuring that marginalized communities can attain justice. Judge Maldonado is a uniquely qualified individual whose perspective will be key in helping those before the Seventh Circuit receive fair consideration for their cases. We strongly urge you to support Judge Maldonado's confirmation to the Seventh Circuit, and we look forward to your efforts to increase Latino representation more broadly among the federal judiciary.

Sincerely,



Ellen E. Findley  
Legislative Staff Attorney