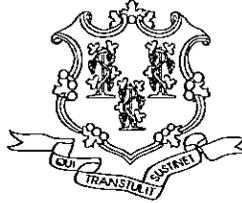


The Connecticut General Assembly



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Testimony of the Black and Latino Caucus
in Support of Judge Carmen Espinosa
to Serve on the Connecticut Supreme Court
February 1, 2013

Good morning State Senator Coleman, State Representative Fox, Co-Chairs of the Judiciary Committee and all the honorable members of this committee.

The Black and Latino Caucus would like to offer its strong support of the nomination of Judge Carmen Espinosa to serve on the Connecticut State Supreme Court.

We commend Governor Dannel P. Malloy for his diligence in prioritizing the increase of demographic diversity in the judicial branch and for recognizing the potential, ability, experience and integrity of Judge Carmen Espinosa to serve in the Supreme Court.

Judge Espinosa, as you know, was first appointed to the Appellate Court by our governor in 2011. A historic milestone indeed, since she was the first Hispanic judge to have been considered for the Appellate Court. Today, we wholeheartedly stand in unison behind her, offering our full support for yet another historic milestone - this time to the Supreme Court, as an impeccable candidate who will continue to serve our state with the distinction and dignity, as she has her entire career. We celebrate this day with even more enthusiasm than before, as increasing minority representation at all levels of public service is one of the main priorities of the Black and Latino Caucus.

However, as we celebrate her nomination with great pride, we must not miss this opportunity, for the record, to recognize the shortage of minority representation in the judicial branch. Her addition to the Supreme Court, after confirmation, will not represent an increase in the number of Latino judges currently serving, despite the significant growth in the Hispanic population during the last decade.

Judge Espinosa's nomination to the Supreme Court is certainly a step in the right direction, but the work toward equitable Latino representation throughout the judicial branch must continue.

We trust this committee will expedite the nomination process of our friend, Judge Carmen Espinosa. Her credentials and consistency in her work are a testament to her professionalism and commitment. She made history in 1992 as the first Hispanic judge and Hispanic woman appointed to the Superior Court in the state of Connecticut. Her vast qualifications include presiding over trials in the Judicial Districts of New Britain, Hartford and Waterbury. In addition to her duties on the bench, Judge Espinosa has been involved in judicial education and for nine years, served on the Judicial Branch's Education Committee, which oversees all facets of continuing education for members of the judiciary.

Thank you for your consideration.