



July 13, 2021

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Grassley, and Committee Members:

On behalf of our 1.5 million supporters nationwide, People For the American Way enthusiastically supports the nomination of Myrna Pérez to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. She is an inspired choice who exemplifies the kind of jurist the American people need on our federal courts.

A graduate of Yale College, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and Columbia Law School, Pérez began her legal career with prestigious clerkships with federal district judge Anita Brody and Third Circuit judge Julio Fuentes. She then spent a year in private practice at the firm of Relman, Dane, and Colfax, where she focused on legal issues relating to fair housing, fair lending, disability, and employment discrimination. In 2006, she began working at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, where she has risen to the position of director of its Voting Rights and Election Program.

During these past 15 years at the Brennan Center, Pérez has dedicated her career to advancing the core right at the basis of all others: the right to vote. No individual right is mentioned more often in the United States Constitution than the right to vote. It is a subject of the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, the Nineteenth, the Twenty-Fourth, and the Twenty-Sixth Amendments. Its prominence in the Constitution reflects its importance in our society: Ultimately, it is the core right undergirding all others. Dedicating oneself to this core tenet of democracy is an act of service to the Constitution that Pérez would be tasked with protecting if she is confirmed.

Pérez would bring to the bench extensive experience as a litigator and an academic. She leads the Brennan Center's nationwide voting litigation, research, and policy advocacy. She manages a team that litigates complex civil matters related to election law and provides litigation counsel and advice to nonprofit clients, often in compressed timetables. She and the team she manages also conduct research, testify before legislative bodies, draft legislative and policy proposals, and publish legal scholarship. In addition, since 2016, Pérez has also taught classes on election law at Columbia Law School. Her career has been dedicated to expanding the rights of all people regardless of politics, power, and wealth.

Pérez would also bring much-needed personal diversity to the Second Circuit. Although it serves a three-state region that is nearly 20 percent Latinx, she would be only the second Latina ever to serve on that court, which has not had any Latina judges since Sonia Sotomayor was confirmed to the Supreme Court in 2009.

Myrna Pérez would bring to the bench a deep understanding of how the law impacts people's lives and a commitment to recognizing the rights of all people. We urge the Senate to confirm her to the Second Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marge Baker".

Marge Baker
Executive Vice President