



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

PRESS RELEASE

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DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY JOINS THE CHORUS OF SUPPORT FOR JUDGE SONIA SOTOMAYOR – AN INSPIRED PICK

June 11, 2009, Washington, D.C. -- Like large numbers of Americans, the members and friends of Dialogue on Diversity are elated with the President's designation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor as the newest Justice on the Supreme Court, replacing Justice David Souter, and credentialed like him with a decade long stint as a trial judge. Congratulations are in order for the remarkable Sonia Sotomayor herself, whose career has gone from success to success, and whose coming role as Justice promises profitable new directions for the high Court. Perhaps of greatest significance, Judge Sotomayor's perspectives on American life include an extraordinary appreciation of its diversity of cultures, a diversity of which she herself is part, being the first nominee of Latino heritage, and having experienced the arc of American life from a childhood in an immigrant community in the Bronx to the elite of academia to her long held post on the influential U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Her deep understanding of the law and of judicial process, and her grasp of the essential American story, make her, as the President evidently saw, a winning nominee.

On a more personal level, Ma. Cristina Caballero, President of Dialogue on Diversity, recalls an evening, a year or two ago, at the Washington suburban home of a leading light in our community. "We were casually informed, Judge Sotomayor is here. It turned out she was one of those sitting with others on a sofa -- all very informally dressed, it was one of those hot evenings in August -- joining in the rollicking conversation. Some judge! Where was the pomposity, the aloofness, the displays of learning? This is the jurist of the common touch. She was most at home with the American rank and file and the simple pleasures of an evening with friends."

And kudos as well to the President, whose experience as a scholar in the constitutional basis of our law is evident in this inspired pick. We wish Judge Sotomayor a speedy and successful confirmation. Viva Justice Sonia!