

NEW YORK
CITY BAR

COMMITTEE ON MINORITIES IN THE COURTS

October 9, 2009

JUAN A. ARTEAGA
CHAIR
425 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10017
Phone: (212) 455-2216
Fax: (212) 455-2502
JArteaga@stblaw.com

R. NADINE FONTAINE
SECRETARY
425 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022
Phone: (212) 836-7541
Fax: (212) 836-7155
nfontaine@kayescholer.com

Re: Nomination of Minority United States Attorneys

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the New York City Bar Association's Minorities in the Courts Committee, I write to commend you on your historic nominations of Justice Sonia Sotomayor as the first Latina United States Supreme Court Justice and Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. as the first African American United States Attorney General. In addition, I write to bring to your attention the shortage of representation of minority attorneys in the position of United States Attorney and strongly urge you to consider minority candidates when making nominations to this extremely important position.

Minority attorneys have historically been underrepresented in United States Attorney's offices throughout the country. This is true at the Assistant United States Attorney positions, and is especially true at the United States Attorney position. The under-representation of minority attorneys in these offices has persisted even as our country and the legal profession have become more diverse. Thus, the nomination of minority candidates will ensure that the United States Attorney position is truly representative of our society and the legal profession.

In addition, the nomination of minority candidates will promote respect for the rule of law by enhancing the ability of federal prosecutorial and law enforcement agencies to build better relationships with minority communities, who have at times had misgivings about these agencies.

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Lastly, as with your historic nominations of Justice Sotomayor and Attorney General Holder, the nomination of minority candidates to the position of United States Attorney – the federal government’s chief law enforcement officer in a respective judicial district – will send a strong message to the public that our federal prosecutorial offices are truly committed to the principle of equal justice under the law.

For all these reasons, Mr. President, our Committee urges you to consider and nominate minority candidates to serve as United States Attorneys.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juan A. Arteaga". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Juan A. Arteaga

cc: Hon. Gregory B. Craig
Hon. Cassandra Butts