



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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9 June 2009

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jefferson B. Sessions III  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Sessions,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for the nomination of Judge Sonia M. Sotomayor to join the Supreme Court of the United States.

Following her graduation from Yale Law School, Judge Sotomayor joined the District Attorney's office in Manhattan, where she tried dozens of cases during her tenure, including winning a conviction of the "Tarzan murderer". She worked closely with rank-and-file law enforcement officers during her time as a prosecutor, and was described by the legendary Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau as a "fearless and effective prosecutor."

After spending some time in private practice, Judge Sotomayor returned to public service and was nominated by President George H. W. Bush for a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. The Committee on the Judiciary unanimously approved her nomination, and she was confirmed in the Senate by unanimous consent. Upon confirmation, Judge Sotomayor became the youngest sitting judge in the Southern District of New York.

Her first high profile case involved a labor issue--*Silverman v. Major League Baseball Player Relations Committee, Inc.* By issuing an injunction preventing the owners from imposing a new collective bargaining agreement, it can be argued that Judge Sotomayor helped save baseball, and certainly baseball fans, from a long, drawn out labor dispute.

In 1998, she was named to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, one of the most demanding circuits in the country, by President William J. Clinton. As an appellate judge, she has participated in over 3000 panel decisions and authored roughly 400 opinions, handling difficult issues of constitutional law, complex procedural matters, and lawsuits involving complicated business organizations. Over the course of her career, she has demonstrated herself to be a sharp and fact-driven jurist, analyzing each case on its merits and weighing the facts before rendering any decision.

—BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION—

While her ruling in *Ricci v. Destefano* has been getting most of the media attention, we would like to bring another case to your attention, *Pappas v. The City of New York, et al.* New York City Police Officer Thomas Pappas was fired for distributing through the U.S. mail racially offensive material from his home. While the Second Circuit upheld the termination of Officer Pappas, Judge Sotomayor dissented noting that his First Amendment rights took precedence because he did not occupy a high-level supervisory, confidential or policymaking role within the department.

In other cases which came before her, both civil and criminal, Judge Sotomayor has often sided with law enforcement officers acting in good faith by upholding convictions on appeal. It is clear that she weighs the facts in evidence and makes her rulings based on the merits of the case. She is a model jurist—tough, fair-minded, and mindful of the constitutionally protections afforded to all U.S. citizens.

I believe that the President has made an excellent choice in naming Judge Sonia S. Sotomayor to the Supreme Court of the United States and, on behalf of the more than 327,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I am proud to endorse her nomination. If I can be of any additional support on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, looped flourish at the end.

Chuck Canterbury  
National President