



Reply to:
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African-American Lawyers for Justice

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June 18, 2009

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Re: Nomination of Camelia M. Valdes for Passaic County Prosecutor

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee:

The Garden State Bar Association writes this letter in support of the nomination and confirmation of Assistant U.S. Attorney Camelia M. Valdes to the position of Passaic County Prosecutor.

The Garden State Bar Association is the largest and most recognized bar, representing African American attorneys in the State of New Jersey. The GSBA assists African-Americans and other minorities in becoming an effective part of the judicial system. Consistent with its mission of encouraging and supporting qualified minority attorneys in their appointment to the bench and similar positions, we request that you consider the stellar qualifications of Ms. Valdes, in your decision to confirm her to the position of Passaic County Prosecutor.

Ms. Valdes presently serves as an Assistant United States Attorney ("AUSA") in the Government Frauds Unit for the United States Attorney's Office in the District of New Jersey. As an AUSA, Ms. Valdes is responsible for the management and supervision of law enforcement agents and legal staff whose mission is the prosecution of a variety of federal offenses, including human trafficking, drug trafficking and gang-related cases, health care fraud, and white collar fraud cases. Prior to joining the Government Frauds Unit, Ms. Valdes was assigned to the Terrorism Unit

where she was involved in investigating and prosecuting terrorism-related cases and providing advice and assistance to members of the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Ms. Valdes' assignment to the Terrorism Unit required sensitivity to public safety issues, and involved multi-agency coordination with partner agencies, both federal and local. During the past six years as an AUSA, she litigated significant and high-profile cases, obtaining numerous guilty pleas and favorable jury verdicts, resulting in substantial terms of imprisonment.

Prior to joining the United States Attorney's Office, Ms. Valdes served as an Assistant Counsel in the Governor's Counsel's Office for Governor Christine Todd Whitman and Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco. During that time, she handled all aspects of criminal legislation, policy initiatives, and certain sensitive political issues. She also had the opportunity to serve as a Deputy Attorney General in the Division of Criminal Justice where she worked in the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor.

This wide variety of state and federal experience has provided Ms. Valdes with the opportunity to develop many of the skills required for the position of Passaic County Prosecutor, such as prosecutorial discretion, evidentiary analysis, victim-witness coordination, and resource allocation.

In addition to Ms. Valdes, exceptional professional qualifications and experience, she is active in community service and development. She is a Past President and current member of the Hispanic Bar Association, a former trustee of the New Jersey State Bar Association and a former member of the Rutgers Law School Alumni Advisory Board. She is also a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., a community service sorority. These positions and activities complement her professional development and provided invaluable leadership experience.

In summary the GSBA believes that Ms. Valdes possesses the integrity, legal ability, experience, dedication, leadership, and commitment for the position of Passaic County Prosecutor. We join the Hispanic Bar Association in endorsing Ms. Valdes and respectfully request that she be confirmed as the next Passaic County Prosecutor.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this endorsement.

Respectfully submitted,

Garden State Bar Association

Geraldine Reed Brown, Esq.
Immediate Past President