



Congressman Pedro R. Pierluisi
Statement in Support of Pedro A. Delgado Hernandez to be United States District Judge for the
District of Puerto Rico
Senate Judiciary Committee
226 Dirksen Senate Office Building
September 11, 2013

Senator Whitehouse and Members of the Committee:

I am honored to be here, on behalf of the 3.6 million U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico, to introduce Judge Pedro Delgado-Hernández, who has been nominated by the President to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. Because Puerto Rico does not have U.S. senators, I am grateful to the Committee for extending me—a member of the House—an invitation to appear this morning.

I have known Judge Delgado-Hernández for longer than either he or I would like to admit. Indeed, when I was serving as Attorney General of Puerto Rico in the early 1990s, he was nominated and confirmed as the territory's Solicitor General. Two decades later, I am particularly pleased—and, indeed, rather moved—to introduce him to this prestigious Committee, now that he has been nominated for a lifetime appointment on the federal bench.

I believe that Judge Delgado-Hernández is an outstanding nominee. Based on his wide-ranging professional experience, his first-rate academic record, his sound judgment, his even

temperament, and his passion for public service, Judge Delgado-Hernández is well-prepared to handle the complex criminal and civil cases that would come before him.

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Judge Delgado-Hernández received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Puerto Rico. He served as an editor of the law review, graduated *magna cum laude*, and earned the award given to the student with the highest GPA in criminal law.

Following law school, Judge Delgado-Hernández served as a law clerk to the Honorable Juan Torruella, in his capacity as Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court of Puerto Rico and then as a newly-minted judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

After his clerkship, Judge Delgado-Hernández worked as an associate—and later as a partner—at one of Puerto Rico’s most prestigious law firms.

In 1993, Judge Delgado-Hernández became Solicitor General of Puerto Rico, representing the government of Puerto Rico in appellate matters. In 1995, he was confirmed as a judge on the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals, where he dealt with the full range of criminal and civil matters. Judge Delgado-Hernández subsequently returned to private practice, where he specializes in labor and employment law and has served as outside counsel to the Puerto Rico Elections Commission. Judge Delgado-Hernández is also highly respected within the legal community in Puerto Rico for his knowledge of constitutional law and ethics matters.

If confirmed by the Senate, I am confident that Judge Delgado-Hernández will work tirelessly to dispense justice, based on the facts of the case at hand, and free from any prejudice. I hope this Committee will support his nomination.

Thank you very much.