

National Black Church Initiative

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For immediate release
PRESS RELEASE

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NATIONAL BLACK CHURCH INITIATIVE SUPPORTS PRESIDENT OBAMA'S NOMINATION OF JUDGE SONYA SOTOMAYOR TO SERVE ON THE US SUPREME COURT

First Hispanic judge is backed by the Black Church.

Washington, DC – The National Black Church Initiative, a coalition of 34,000 African American churches, is in full support of President Obama's nomination of Judge Sonya Sotomayor to serve on the US Supreme Court. Judge Sotomayor's background, experience and own personal will to see the right thing done will help the court define the proper laws of the country and help America and Americans grow. NBCI also applauds the fact that Judge Sotomayor will be the first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice if she is confirmed and urges the Judiciary Committee to confirm her in a timely and efficient matter without needless debate and conjecture. NBCI sees this as another significant building block of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of creating and realizing a Beloved Community. Now little Latino girls all across the world can dream beyond their wildest imagination and become either President or the top legal mind of their country. This what Dr. King called developing the content of the character.

With a degree from Yale Law School, graduating summa cum laude, and Princeton University and ten years experience in the Second Circuit court along with her editing of the Yale Law Journal, Judge Sotomayor clearly has the credentials to be one of the country's leading lawmakers. However, it is her noted compassion, empathy and intelligence that truly qualify her for the position of Supreme Court Justice. Throughout the years that Judge Sotomayor has served as a judge she has not only ruled fairly and wisely, but she has also helped nurture many of the country's finest lawyers and judges through the mentoring of thousands of female attorneys and attorneys of color.

The Honorable Right Rev. Anthony Evans, president of the National Black Church Initiative, said, "This simply has been a historic year thus far. With the inauguration of President Obama as the first African American President in the history of this country and the nomination of Judge

Sotomayor we are now beginning to realize in a realistic way that the old barriers of hatred are crumbling under the weight of righteousness and the glory of God and his edict that he has no respect of person and that he sees all of us equal and deserving of his love. I am personally moved by this nomination and I think deeply about the words of our brother Malcolm X, who loved this country, but this country refused to recognize his enormous contributions of calling it into consciousness to realize its true nature of greatness. I wonder what Malcolm would have said at this moment, but since he is not here I will say it on his behalf. America is becoming, with another small step, that shining city upon a hill that President Reagan spoke so eloquently about.”

It is not simply Judge Sotomayor’s acts within the world of law that make her a good choice either. Sotomayor helps to fulfill the promise of a more equal and equally representative America. Having grown up from humble beginnings, she has worked hard to achieve her position and it is this life experience that will give her the background and knowledge to truly represent the entire country as a Supreme Court Justice. Also appealing is the fact that Judge Sotomayor has a history of working with both conservative and liberal views, making her nomination one that will not divide, but instead unify the country. She was appointed to the U.S. district court under President Bush and promoted to the Second District by President Clinton.

The Rev. Mark McCleary, chairman of the National Black Church Initiative Minister Alliance, said, “This is a beautiful life story. I plan to tell it to all of our little girls in our congregation. This is why I find the hate speech of Newt Gingrich so troubling. His lips dripped with words of interposition and nullification. I am deeply troubled, but I refuse to allow this type of speech to steal the joy of this moment and to take the sunlight from this dawn of a new day in America. I have specific orders from President Evans to utilize our moral authority all across America utilizing our 34,000 churches to pray for Judge Sotomayor, and to work hard by calling and writing our representation in congress and stating that this woman deserves this seat, not because she is Latino but because she is competent.”

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 16,000 African-American and Latino member churches works to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare. In addition to our member churches, we have 18,000 sister churches. NBCI is a faith-based health organization dedicated to providing critical wellness information and preventive health screening to all of its members. The African-American community ranks first in eleven different health risk categories. NBCI’s purpose is to partner with national health officials to provide health education, reduce racial health disparities, and increase access to quality healthcare.