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Contact: Amy Hinojosa
Telephone: 202-833-0600
ahinojosa@hermana.org

**MANA Applauds President Obama for Nominating Sonia Sotomayor
for Supreme Court Justice Post; Calls on Senate for Swift Confirmation**

MANA, A National Latina Organization, with headquarters in Washington, DC, twenty-six Chapters nationwide and six affiliates across the nation, applauds President Obama for selecting the first Latina nominee for the Supreme Court of the United States and urges the U.S. Senate to expeditiously confirm The Honorable Sonia Sotomayor as the next Supreme Court Justice to replace Justice Souter.

Judge Sonia Sotomayor's keen intellect, integrity, commitment to bipartisan, fair decision making, and proven experience in upholding the law without bias, make her a clear choice for Supreme Court Justice. We are confident that she will dutifully represent the law as it is written, serving the interests of the nation.

Judge Sonia Sotomayor will bring a diverse range of experience and perspective to the Supreme Court. A Puerto Rican raised in the Bronx, Sotomayor overcame many obstacles in her life to reach an astounding level of success, which she credits to her mother, who raised her and her brother alone since her father's death. She began her career as an Assistant District Attorney in the state of New York. Later, she worked in private practice as a litigator, dealing with an array of cases for both American and foreign clients. In 1992 she served as a federal judge for the U.S. District Court, appointed by then President George H.W. Bush, until her appointment as appellate judge in 1998 by President William Jefferson Clinton.

"We are so proud that this extraordinary individual was selected by President Obama for one of the most important positions in the nation. Judge Sonia Sotomayor is eminently qualified. Additionally, the fact that she is Hispanic and a woman broadens her perspective and would enhance her role as a justice on the Supreme Court of the United States. We pledge our support to Judge Sotomayor through the confirmation process and look forward to seeing her seated on the Supreme Court," said Alma Morales Riojas, President and CEO of MANA.

The members of MANA, women, and Hispanics across America are eagerly anticipating the confirmation of the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor. We strongly urge the U.S. Senate to respond quickly with a confirmation of Judge Sonia Sotomayor.

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About MANA: MANA, A National Latina Organization, is a nonprofit advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, DC. With chapters across the country, it is the oldest national Latina membership organization in the United States. MANA, whose mission is to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service and advocacy, envisions a national community of informed Latina activists working to improve the quality of life for all Hispanics. MANA also has the only national Latina mentoring program for girls 11-18, *HERMANITAS*®, which brings over 100 girls each year to a Washington, DC, Latina leadership institute that includes educational activities at the White House, on Capitol Hill, and at the Pentagon.