June 13, 2012

Via Facsimile (202-224-4952) & E-mail

Senator Kelly Ayotte
http://www.ayotte.senate.gov/?p=contact

Re: Nomination of Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte

Dear Senator Ayotte:

On behalf of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC), we, the undersigned leaders of HBA-DC, write to urge the swift confirmation of Mari Carmen Aponte to be United States Ambassador to El Salvador. As you may recall, on December 16, 2011, we wrote to express our dismay at the failure of the United States Senate, on a cloture vote of 49 to 37, to consider the merits of Ms. Aponte’s nomination. We again urge the swift confirmation of Ambassador Aponte, which appears to us certain, but for a filibuster that serves the interests of neither the United States nor El Salvador.

Ambassador Aponte’s impeccable qualifications are well known by now to Senators who have subjected Ms. Aponte to scrutiny for the last two years. Born in Puerto Rico, Ambassador Aponte was first nominated by President Obama to serve as Ambassador to El Salvador on December 9, 2009, and was placed in her role via a recess appointment on August 19, 2010. Ambassador Aponte brought to her role the experience of a lawyer with a thirty-year career. She has been a longtime leader in the Hispanic legal community, having led such distinguished organizations as the National Council of La Raza, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the Puerto Rican Federal Affairs Administration.

Ambassador Aponte also has been a trailblazer for Hispanic attorneys, having served as a past president of our organization as well as the first female president of the Hispanic National Bar Association. Scores of Hispanic attorneys have benefitted from Ambassador Aponte’s guidance and generosity over the years.

The people of the United States benefitted considerably from Ambassador Aponte’s brief tenure as U.S. Ambassador in El Salvador. She served as a strong advocate for U.S. companies in El Salvador while strengthening ties between the U.S. and El Salvador business communities, as reflected in the support of her confirmation by the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Ambassador Aponte has vigorously promoted American national security through, among other things, her efforts to negotiate a monitoring center to fight transnational crime. She also has
advocated for the values of democratic decision-making by pushing Salvadoran President Funes to discuss democracy and human rights with Fidel Castro during his first official visit to Cuba.

Ambassador Aponte’s achievements to date should win praise from Senators of all political persuasions who have professed to support American security and democratic values. Over two years of constant scrutiny have not produced a single valid reason why the Senate cannot give Ambassador Aponte an up-or-down vote on her nomination. Indeed, no such reason exists to those of us who are intimately acquainted with Ambassador Aponte’s unshakable integrity, professional temperament, and warm demeanor. She has all of the qualities of an ambassador that will make the American people proud, as she aptly showed during her 14 months as Ambassador.

Therefore, we urge the U.S. Senate to confirm Mari Carmen Aponte to the position of United States Ambassador to El Salvador. The confirmation would serve the long-term interests of the United States in El Salvador and shine a light on Ambassador Aponte as an exemplar of the Hispanic community.

Sincerely,

Lyzka P. DeLaCruz
President

Jaime Areizaga-Soto
President-Elect

William Alvarado Rivera
Immediate Past President

Holli Feichko
Vice President, External Affairs
Via Facsimile (202-228-2646) & E-mail

Senator Scott Brown
http://scottbrown.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactme

Re: Nomination of Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte

Dear Senator Brown:

On behalf of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC), we, the undersigned leaders of HBA-DC, write to urge the swift confirmation of Mari Carmen Aponte to be United States Ambassador to El Salvador. As you may recall, on December 16, 2011, we wrote to express our dismay at the failure of the United States Senate, on a cloture vote of 49 to 37, to consider the merits of Ms. Aponte’s nomination. We again urge the swift confirmation of Ambassador Aponte, which appears to us certain, but for a filibuster that serves the interests of neither the United States nor El Salvador.

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June 13, 2012

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[Signatures]

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William Alvarado Rivera
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Holli Feichko
Vice President, External Affairs
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President

Jaime Areizaga-Soto
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William Alvarado Rivera
Immediate Past President

Holli Feichko
Vice President, External Affairs
June 13, 2012

Via Facsimile (202-228-2856) & E-mail

Senator John Cornyn  
http://www.cornyn.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=ContactForm

Re: Nomination of Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte

Dear Senator Cornyn:

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President

Jaime Areizaga-Soto
President-Elect

William Alvarado Rivera
Immediate Past President

Holli Feichko
Vice President, External Affairs
Via Facsimile (202-228-5143) & E-mail

Senator Lindsey Graham  

Re: Nomination of Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte

Dear Senator Graham:

On behalf of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC), we, the undersigned leaders of HBA-DC, write to urge the swift confirmation of Mari Carmen Aponte to be United States Ambassador to El Salvador. As you may recall, on December 16, 2011, we wrote to express our dismay at the failure of the United States Senate, on a cloture vote of 49 to 37, to consider the merits of Ms. Aponte’s nomination. We again urge the swift confirmation of Ambassador Aponte, which appears to us certain, but for a filibuster that serves the interests of neither the United States nor El Salvador.

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Jaime Areizaga-Soto
President-Elect

William Alvarado Rivera
Immediate Past President

Holli Feichko
Vice President, External Affairs
Via Facsimile (202-224-6020) & E-mail

Senator Chuck Grassley
http://www.grassley.senate.gov/contact.cfm

Re: Nomination of Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte

Dear Senator Grassley:

On behalf of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC), we, the undersigned leaders of HBA-DC, write to urge the swift confirmation of Mari Carmen Aponte to be United States Ambassador to El Salvador. As you may recall, on December 16, 2011, we wrote to express our dismay at the failure of the United States Senate, on a cloture vote of 49 to 37, to consider the merits of Ms. Aponte’s nomination. We again urge the swift confirmation of Ambassador Aponte, which appears to us certain, but for a filibuster that serves the interests of neither the United States nor El Salvador.

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President

Jaime Areizaga-Soto
President-Elect

William Alvarado Rivera
Immediate Past President

Holli Feichko
Vice President, External Affairs
Via Facsimile (202-228-6753) & E-mail
Senator Dean Heller
http://heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact-form

Re: Nomination of Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte

Dear Senator Heller:

On behalf of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC), we, the undersigned leaders of HBA-DC, write to urge the swift confirmation of Mari Carmen Aponte to be United States Ambassador to El Salvador. As you may recall, on December 16, 2011, we wrote to express our dismay at the failure of the United States Senate, on a cloture vote of 49 to 37, to consider the merits of Ms. Aponte’s nomination. We again urge the swift confirmation of Ambassador Aponte, which appears to us certain, but for a filibuster that serves the interests of neither the United States nor El Salvador.

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[Signatures]

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Jaime Areizaga-Soto
President-Elect

William Alvarado Rivera
Immediate Past President

Holli Feichko
Vice President, External Affairs
June 13, 2012

Via Facsimile (202-224-0776) & E-mail

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
http://hutchison.senate.gov/?p=email_kay

Re: Nomination of Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte

Dear Senator Hutchison:

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William Alvarado Rivera  
Immediate Past President

Holli Feichko  
Vice President, External Affairs
June 13, 2012

Via Facsimile (202-228-0360) & E-mail

Senator Richard Lugar
http://www.lugar.senate.gov/contact/contactform.cfm

Re: Nomination of Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte

Dear Senator Lugar:

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Vice President, External Affairs
Via Facsimile (202-228-2862) & E-mail

Senator John McCain
http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.ContactForm

Re: Nomination of Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte

Dear Senator McCain:

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Senator Lisa Murkowski

Re: Nomination of Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte

Dear Senator Murkowski:

On behalf of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC), we, the undersigned leaders of HBA-DC, write to urge the swift confirmation of Mari Carmen Aponte to be United States Ambassador to El Salvador. As you may recall, on December 16, 2011, we wrote to express our dismay at the failure of the United States Senate, on a cloture vote of 49 to 37, to consider the merits of Ms. Aponte’s nomination. We again urge the swift confirmation of Ambassador Aponte, which appears to us certain, but for a filibuster that serves the interests of neither the United States nor El Salvador.

Ambassador Aponte’s impeccable qualifications are well known by now to Senators who have subjected Ms. Aponte to scrutiny for the last two years. Born in Puerto Rico, Ambassador Aponte was first nominated by President Obama to serve as Ambassador to El Salvador on December 9, 2009, and was placed in her role via a recess appointment on August 19, 2010. Ambassador Aponte brought to her role the experience of a lawyer with a thirty-year career. She has been a longtime leader in the Hispanic legal community, having led such distinguished organizations as the National Council of La Raza, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the Puerto Rican Federal Affairs Administration.

Ambassador Aponte also has been a trailblazer for Hispanic attorneys, having served as a past president of our organization as well as the first female president of the Hispanic National Bar Association. Scores of Hispanic attorneys have benefitted from Ambassador Aponte’s guidance and generosity over the years.

The people of the United States benefitted considerably from Ambassador Aponte’s brief tenure as U.S. Ambassador in El Salvador. She served as a strong advocate for U.S. companies in El Salvador while strengthening ties between the U.S. and El Salvador business communities, as reflected in the support of her confirmation by the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Ambassador Aponte has vigorously promoted American national security through, among other things, her efforts to negotiate a monitoring center to fight transnational crime. She also has
advocated for the values of democratic decision-making by pushing Salvadoran President Funes to discuss democracy and human rights with Fidel Castro during his first official visit to Cuba.

Ambassador Aponte’s achievements to date should win praise from Senators of all political persuasions who have professed to support American security and democratic values. Over two years of constant scrutiny have not produced a single valid reason why the Senate cannot give Ambassador Aponte an up-or-down vote on her nomination. Indeed, no such reason exists to those of us who are intimately acquainted with Ambassador Aponte’s unshakeable integrity, professional temperament, and warm demeanor. She has all of the qualities of an ambassador that will make the American people proud, as she aptly showed during her 14 months as Ambassador.

Therefore, we urge the U.S. Senate to confirm Mari Carmen Aponte to the position of United States Ambassador to El Salvador. The confirmation would serve the long-term interests of the United States in El Salvador and shine a light on Ambassador Aponte as an exemplar of the Hispanic community.

Sincerely,

Lyzka P. DeLaCruz
President

Jaime Areizaga-Soto
President-Elect

William Alvarado Rivera
Immediate Past President

Holli Feichko
Vice President, External Affairs
Via Facsimile (202-228-0285) & E-mail

Senator Marco Rubio
http://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact

Re: Nomination of Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte

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Lyzka P. DeLaCruz
President

Jaime Areizaga-Soto
President-Elect

William Alvarado Rivera
Immediate Past President

Holli Feichko
Vice President, External Affairs
June 13, 2012

Via Facsimile (202-224-1946) & E-mail

Senator Olympia Snowe

Re: Nomination of Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte

Dear Senator Snowe:

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Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Lyzka P. DeLaCruz
President

Jaime Areizaga-Soto
President-Elect

William Alvarado Rivera
Immediate Past President

Holli Feichtko
Vice President, External Affairs
June 13, 2012

Via Facsimile (202-228-0284) & E-mail

Senator Pat Toomey
http://www.toomey.senate.gov/?p=contact

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P.O. Box 1011 Washington, D.C. 20013-1011 info@hbadc.org