

ONE PAGER- GENERAL TALKING POINTS

President Obama's Qualifications for Supreme Court Justice

- President Obama has maintained that to uphold constitutional values, a justice must have:
 - Not only **intellectual ability** to apply the law to the facts of a case
 - But must also possess a **common sense understanding** of how laws affect the reality of people's lives.

Sotomayor Possesses Required Qualifications

- Judge Sotomayor embodies both of these qualities, which are exemplified through
 - Her **unique personal background** as a Puerto Rican who grew up in a public housing project in the South Bronx who excelled academically in high school (graduated valedictorian), at Princeton University (graduated summa cum laude), and at Yale Law School (editor of law journal).
 - Her **broad legal experience** will bring more federal judicial experience to the Supreme Court than any justice in 100 years and more overall judicial experience than anyone confirmed for the Court in the past 70 years.
 - As a NY Assistant District Attorney (prosecuted criminal cases),
 - As an International Corporate Litigator (handling cases on Intellectual Property, banking, real estate, and contract law),
 - As a federal trial judge on the U.S. District Court (appointed by President George H. W. Bush),
 - As an appellate judge on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals (appointed by President Bill Clinton)

Sotomayor has Garnered Strong Bipartisan Support

- Judge Sotomayor has great bipartisan support that proves that good judging transcends political party.
 - On bipartisan recommendation of her home-state Senators, she was appointed to the U.S. District Court by President George H.W. Bush, a Republican.
 - She was promoted to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals by President Bill Clinton, a Democrat.
 - Known as a moderate, Sotomayor often forges consensus and agreeing with her more conservative colleagues more frequently than she disagrees with them.
 - In cases where Sotomayor and at least one judge appointed by a Republican President were on a three-judge panel, Sotomayor and the Republican appointee(s) agreed on the outcome 95% of the time.

Sotomayor has Stellar Experience in Applying Law to Cases and Protecting Rights

- As a participant in over 3000 panel decisions and as the author of approximately 400 opinions,
 - Sotomayor has demonstrated a thorough understanding of a wide range of highly complicated legal issues (constitutional law, procedural matters, suits w/ businesses),
 - She has developed a strong reputation for deciding cases based on the careful application of the law to the specific facts of each case.
 - Sotomayor's record indicates that she understands the court's role in protecting the rights of all Americans, in ensuring equal justice, and respecting our Constitutional values – all within the **confines of the law**.