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March 27, 2003

Senate Legislative Affairs Committee  
Testimony by Janice Martinez Gunderson

For the record, my name is Janice Martinez Gunderson. I am not testifying on behalf of an organization today, although I have been a member and officer in many organizations: Nevada Hispanic Services, the Alliance for Latinas in Action and Solidarity, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and I am currently the Vice President of the Reno Chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens. I cite my past and present associations to let you know that I have actively worked for the advancement of Hispanics and will continue to do so.

However, in the case of Mr. Estrada I personally feel he is not the right candidate for the appointment to the United States Court of Appeals. Since he is refusing to answer questions posed to him by the United States Senate about his views, and feelings on various issues, I know little about Mr. Estrada, and that is where the problem lies.

I liken the process of Senate inquiry to a job interview. If I were a business owner who was interviewing a candidate for a job and was denied the requisite resume or felt that the candidate was trying to hide something from me, I would not hire that candidate. So it is with Mr. Estrada. How can we know whether or not he would have sound judgment on the bench if we have no idea what his views and opinions on various issues are? Without more information about Mr. Estrada and his views, I feel it would be irresponsible for the Senate to put him on the bench and it would be equally irresponsible to encourage the U.S. Senate to do so.

Thank you for your time.