Carlos A. Rodríguez Vidal has spent his entire career at Goldman Antonetti & Córdova, LLC, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He has chaired its Litigation and Trial Practice department since 2000 and is its Managing Member. He is admitted to practice in Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and New York, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court, First and Eleventh Circuits, and the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

Mr. Rodríguez currently serves as Chair of the ABA House of Delegates Minority Caucus and the ABA Standing Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. He has also represented the Puerto Rico Bar Association before the ABA House of Delegates from 1995 to 2010 and since 2013. He is a member of the House’s Minority Caucus since joining the House of Delegates. From 2010 to 2013, he represented District 13 in the Board of Governors. During that tenure, he served as liaison to the Section of Antitrust Law, the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession, and the Special Committee on Bioethics and the Law, and served in the Board=s Operations and Communications Committee, which he chaired in 2012-13. In that capacity, Mr. Rodríguez served as a member of the Board=s Executive Committee along with the officers of the Association and fellow committee chairs. From 2013 to 2016, he served as Chair of the Diversity Center. Mr. Rodríguez has also served as Vice-Chair of the House of Delegates Resolution Impact and Select Committees, and currently serves in the Credentials and Admissions Committee.

Mr. Rodríguez is also Board Chair of the Oficina Legal de la Comunidad, a not-for-profit corporation grantee of the Legal Services Corporation that provides legal services and counsel to indigent citizens of San Juan, Puerto Rico. He has also served as counsel ad honorem to the Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico=s bar association, and the Puerto Rico Civil Rights Commission.

In February of 2003, the Puerto Rico Supreme Court appointed Mr. Rodríguez to its Access to Justice Commission, charged with advising the Supreme Court by formulating a strategic plan to propose specific methods for access to justice for all citizens of Puerto Rico. The Court revived the Commission in January 2014, and Chief Justice Hernandez Denton appointed him to a term of three years and asked him to serve as its Vice Chair. Chief Justice Maite Oronoz renominated him in 2017.
July 26, 2019

Mr. Keevin Woods  
Director, Commission for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession  
American Bar Association  
321 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60654  

Re: Nominations for Chair of the ABA House of Delegates Minority Caucus  

Dear Mr. Woods:  

This shall serve as my expression of interest to accept re-nomination as Chair of the ABA House of Delegates Minority Caucus in the upcoming election at the Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California. The attached personal statement states in detail my qualifications and experience in various roles in the profession and in the ABA, including in its Board of Governors, its House of Delegates and in ABA entities and initiatives that have advanced Diversity and Inclusion in the Association.  

Kindly inform me if you need any additional information from me. I look forward to seeing you in San Francisco.  

Very cordially yours,  

Carlos A. Rodríguez Vidal  

CARLOS A. RODRIGUEZ VIDAL
Justice Adrienne Nelson

Justice Adrienne Nelson was appointed to the Oregon Supreme Court on January 2, 2018, making her the first African American to sit on the state’s highest court and on any appellate state court. Her election to a six-year term in November 2018 made her the first African American woman elected statewide in Oregon. In 2006, she was appointed as a trial judge on the Multnomah County Circuit Court in Portland, Oregon, making her the second African American female judge in the state of Oregon. Prior to her judicial appointments, she worked as a public defender with Multnomah Defenders, Inc., then as an associate with the Bennett, Hartman, Morris and Kaplan, LLP law firm and as the Senior Attorney/Coordinator of the Portland State University Student Legal and Mediation Services. Judge Nelson earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Texas at Austin and her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Criminal Justice Summa Cum Laude from the University of Arkansas.

Over the years, Judge Nelson has been very active in the legal community and the greater Oregon community. She is a frequent speaker on several topics including diversity, inclusion, equity, leadership and professional development. Judge Nelson also serves as a mentor to many people. Currently, she sits on the American Bar Association (ABA) Standing Committee on Public Education, is the Oregon delegate to the ABA House of Delegates (before this position, she had been elected seven times as an Oregon State Bar (OSB) delegate), chairs the Lewis and Clark Law School Judge Roosevelt Robinson Scholarship Committee and is president of the Owen M. Panner American Inn of Court.

In the community, Justice Nelson sits on the Reed College Board of Trustees, sits the Self-Enhancement, Incorporated (SEI) Board of Directors, sits on the Oregon Community Foundation Metropolitan Portland Leadership Council, and sits on the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars Advisory Board (GSBB). Justice Nelson is a tireless encourager, helping people succeed by living their best lives.

Justice Nelson has been recognized for her service and mentorship to others. On April 5, 2019, the Thurgood Marshall Legal Society at the University of Texas School of Law presented her with the Loftus C. Carson II Trailblazer Award. On March 2, 2019, the Oregon Black Pioneers recognized Justice Nelson with its First Award for her appointment to the Oregon Supreme Court. On February 26, 2019, the Oregon Chapter of the National Bar Association presented her with the Adrienne Nelson Trailblazer, Visionary, and Champion Award. On September 15, 2018, Self-Enhancement Inc. named Justice Nelson its Soul of the City Award recipient. On April 27, 2018, Dress for Success Oregon named her one of its Athena Award recipients. On October 20, 2016, the Boy Scouts Cascade Pacific Council named Justice Nelson a Whitney M. Young Jr. award recipient for her community service. In May 2016, the Multnomah Bar Association presented Justice Nelson with an Award of Merit. In February 2016, she was honored by the Portland Prime restaurant at its Black History Month Program. In December 2015, the Oregon State Bar presented Justice Nelson with its Diversity and Inclusion Award. On September 16, 2015, the Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington named her a Marie Lamfrom Woman of Distinction. In May 2015, Justice Nelson was named a member of the class of 2015 of the Council on State Government (CSG) Henry Toll Fellows, making her one of eight Oreganians selected for this leadership program. On October 2, 2014, Portland State University Center for Women’s Leadership honored her for her leadership at their Eighth Annual Women’s Leadership Luncheon. On May 21, 2012, Justice Nelson was named a White Rose honoree by the Oregon Chapter of the March of Dimes for her community service. On October 1, 2011, Lewis and Clark Law School named her a distinguished honorary graduate for her mentoring and diversity activities at the school. In 2003, Justice Nelson received the Oregon Women Lawyers (OWLs) Judge Mercedes Diez award for promotion of women and minorities in the legal profession and in the community.
Nominee Statement from Adrienne Nelson for the Minority Caucus Secretary Position

I have been active in the ABA since 2001 and I am a longstanding member of the Minority Caucus. In January 2014, I was appointed to the Minority Caucus resolutions committee; and I served as chair from July 2014 to August 2016. In August 2016, I was elected to serve as secretary of the Minority Caucus. It is honor to serve in this leadership capacity and would I like the opportunity to continue my leadership and service.

I am currently serving my second term as the Oregon State Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates (HOD). Prior to becoming the Oregon State Delegate, I was an Oregon State Bar (OSB) delegate to the ABA House of Delegates (I was elected seven times). I am currently the chair of the HOD Steering Committee of the Nominating Committee and formerly chaired the HOD Credentials and Admissions Committee. I also run the Western “Small States” Caucus.

Since August 2016, I serve on the Standing Committee on Public Education after serving the past two years on the Standing Committee on Public Education Advisory Commission. Since 2005, I have been a member of the Gavel Awards Screening Committee. I have served on the Commission on Disability Rights, the House Technology and Communications Committee, the Gavel Awards Standing Committee, and the Law Practice Management Section Magazine Board.

In Oregon, I currently sit on the Reed College Board of Trustees, the Self-Enhancement, Incorporated (SEI) Board of Directors (I am the immediate past chair), sit on the Oregon Community Foundation Metropolitan Portland Leadership Council where I chair the Outreach to Black Community committee, sit the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars Advisory Board (I am a past chair) chair the Lewis and Clark Law School Judge Roosevelt Robinson Scholarship Committee and am President of the Owen M. Panner American Inn of Court.