



**For Immediate Release**  
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**National Effort Launched to Draft Judge Edward Prado to US Supreme Court**  
*Consensus nominee a Uniter, Not a Divider*

(Washington, DC). In the spirit of bipartisan cooperation, StartChange.org today launched a national campaign to encourage President George W. Bush to nominate, and the Senate to confirm, an experienced, moderate candidate to fill the anticipated United States Supreme Court vacancy. **The *DraftPrado* campaign is a national, grassroots effort to bring Republicans and Democrats together in support of a consensus nominee, Judge Edward C. Prado.** Nominated for Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals by President Bush in 2003 and unanimously confirmed by the Senate, Judge Prado possesses the character, experience and moderate approach necessary to uphold the integrity and impartiality of the United States Supreme Court. The *DraftPrado* campaign will mobilize an army of concerned citizens and lead a massive congressional contact campaign through the website [www.DraftPrado.org](http://www.DraftPrado.org).

“The *DraftPrado* campaign was inspired, in part, by the recent bipartisan efforts by fourteen Senators to avert the nuclear option, illustrating how deliberation and moderation makes America stronger,” said Arkadi Gerney, a director of StartChange.org. “Judge Prado is a nominee that a majority of Americans can get behind, and the *DraftPrado* campaign is intended to ensure the next Supreme Court nomination does not turn into a partisan battleground.”

Nominated by Republicans and supported by Democrats, Judge Prado has demonstrated the ability to unite Americans across the political spectrum with a mainstream approach. He was unanimously confirmed to the Circuit Court by the United States Senate, drawing praise from members of both parties:

“Judge Prado is a man of exceptional character, impeccable ethics, and is well qualified to serve as a Circuit Judge” said Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT).

“He is so well regarded in San Antonio and by the people who have gone before him. They know they will get fair and impartial justice in his court,” said Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX).

Representative Ciro D. Rodriguez (D-TX) on behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, supported Judge Prado’s Circuit Court nomination by saying

“Judge Prado has a proven track record of fairness [and] broad understanding of the Hispanic community... he will bring a fresh, educated, and historical perspective to his bench.”

Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) has recommended Judge Prado as one of five people most qualified for the next Supreme Court opening, calling him a person who exemplified the qualities of “excellence, diversity, and moderation”.

Judge Prado also has won praise from independent observers of judicial conduct. During his confirmation hearings, Judge Prado received a unanimous “Well Qualified” rating from the American Bar Association - the highest rating the group bestows on candidates for the federal bench.

Upon graduating from law school at the University of Texas in 1972, Prado was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and later served as an Infantry Officer. Judge Prado began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney for Bexar County, Texas. In 1976, he served in the Federal Public Defender’s Office in the Western District of Texas. In 1980 he was appointed to serve as a State District Judge. Just one year later, President Reagan appointed Judge Prado to serve as United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas. In 1984, President Reagan appointed Judge Prado to the District Court where he served for 19 years. In 2003, President George W. Bush nominated Judge Prado for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Senate confirmed him by a vote of 97-0. Judge Prado is actively involved in his church and community, serving on the Witte Museum Community Advisory Committee, the Philosophical Society of Texas, the Rotary Club of San Antonio and Leadership San Antonio.

Throughout his tenure as a federal judge, Edward Prado has distinguished himself with his independent, intelligent, fair-minded opinions. As his colleague, Laurence R. Macon, noted in the Texas Lawyer, “I’ve known him for 30 years, and he doesn’t have any outrageous positions. He won’t be there trying to make law.”

The *DraftPrado* website, [www.DraftPrado.org](http://www.DraftPrado.org), will allow Americans to learn more about Judge Prado and take action. The site includes tools for visitors to send a message to the President, contact their Senators, write letters to their local newspapers, and help spread the word on the Internet.

The *DraftPrado* campaign is a project of StartChange ([www.StartChange.org](http://www.StartChange.org)), a 501(c)4 advocacy group with 150,000 members that works to ensure that our companies play fair, our press is truly free, and our politicians work genuinely in the public interest.

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