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## LITIGATION NEWS

### ***Important Ruling Concerning the Right to Jury Trial in Civil Cases before Puerto Rico Courts***

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit issued a per curiam opinion holding that Puerto Rico is “not constitutionally required to provide a jury trial in civil cases.”

The U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico had issued a declaratory judgment in an employment case, ordering the Office of the Courts Administration (“OCA”) and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to “afford civil litigants the Seventh Amendment right to a jury trial.” The First Circuit vacated the declaratory judgment recognizing that the U.S. Supreme Court has consistently held that the Seventh Amendment does not require the states to afford civil jury trials and that the District Court had erred in its interpretation of recent Supreme Court case law, which did not overrule the prior Seventh Amendment decisions.

[Juan A. Marqués-Díaz](#) and [Isabel Torres-Sastre](#) represented appellant OCA in this case.

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