VIA FIRST-CLASS MAIL

The Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan, Chairperson
District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission
616 H Street, NW, Suite 623, Sixth Floor (Gallery Place)
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Judge Sullivan:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC) is pleased to provide its highest recommendation for Magistrate Judge Aida L. Melendez as a nominee to the current vacancy on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. We believe, based on our research and deliberations, including an interview and conversations with Magistrate Judge Melendez’s colleagues, that her work as an Associate Judge in the Superior Court would be a significant contribution to the bench.

The HBA-DC undertakes a careful review of individuals who seek its endorsement. We ensure that candidates for endorsement meet the letter and the spirit of our endorsement policy, which includes the criteria of demonstrated professional qualifications and personal traits in order to ensure the nomination of candidates of proper temperament and character. Magistrate Judge Melendez is such an individual.

Magistrate Judge Melendez has devoted her legal career to serving the people of the District of Columbia. Her distinguished career at the Office of the Corporation Counsel (now known as the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia), including her work in the Criminal Division, the Legal Counsel Division, and finally as Chief of the Child Support Unit, demonstrate not only a steady and consistent commitment to public service but also to upholding the rule of law. Throughout her government career, including her appointment to the bench, Magistrate Judge Melendez has demonstrated the professional experience and personal integrity as well as the temperament and interpersonal skills to meet and exceed our criteria for support.
Through her service as the presiding Magistrate Judge and her membership in various court committees, Ms. Melendez has ably displayed the requisite administrative and organizational skills and the analytical and problem solving skills that commend her to a position on the Court of Appeals. Moreover, her diverse background, having practiced on both sides of the bench, will be a real strength and add to the diversity of experience that is essential to a robust Court of Appeals.

Magistrate Judge Melendez is highly regarded by her colleagues who likewise recommend her to an associate judgeship in Superior Court, including Judge Ricardo Urbina of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Associate Judge Vanessa Ruiz of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and Magistrate Judges J. Dennis Doyle and Dianne Brenneman of the Superior Court. Her work on the bench has been reviewed favorably, one judge noting that Magistrate Judge Melendez provided “careful explanation” of her reasoning, a talent that will serve her well as an Associate Judge in Superior Court.

We are both pleased and proud to note that Magistrate Judge Melendez has not only demonstrated a commitment to the District of Columbia community, but also a commitment to the advancement of the Hispanic community, serving as a mentor to many young Latino lawyers over the years and lending her support to HBA-DC efforts that enhance the experience of Hispanic attorneys throughout Washington.

It is the considered opinion of the HBA-DC that Magistrate Judge Melendez possesses the skills, experience, character and temperament needed for a judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. We enthusiastically provide our highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Christina Sarinho
President, HBA-DC

[Signature]
Fernando Rivero
Chairperson, Endorsements Committee