



HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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June 12, 2009

Pauline A. Schneider
Chair, Federal Law Enforcement
Nominating Commission
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
1152 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Schneider:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC) is pleased, once again, to provide its highest endorsement for Judge Laura A. Cordero, as a candidate for a judicial position with the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. The HBA-DC was honored to endorse Judge Cordero in 2004 when she was seeking an appointment to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

The HBA-DC undertakes a careful review of individuals who seek its endorsement. We ensure that candidates for endorsements 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. Judge Cordero is such an individual.

Judge Cordero's dedication to public service spans her legal career of which over sixteen years has been focused exclusively in the District of Columbia. After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1988, Judge Cordero served a two-year term as a law clerk to the Honorable James A. Parker of the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico. In 1991, Judge Cordero joined the Department of Justice under the Attorney General's Honor Law Graduate Program, where she was assigned to the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division. Two years later, Judge Cordero became an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia and, during her twelve-year tenure, she prosecuted a wide variety of criminal cases in the Superior Court for the District of Columbia and the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Judge Cordero also litigated numerous appeals in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. As a result of her diligent work on behalf of the citizens of the District of Columbia and her community involvement, Judge Cordero was assigned to be the first Community Prosecutor stationed at the Metropolitan Police Department Third District. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Cordero served as the Executive Assistant United States Attorney for External Affairs. This position required her to develop and maintain effective partnerships with federal and local law enforcement, government agencies and community organizations. In this

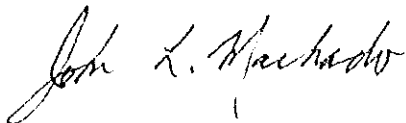
capacity, she was instrumental in coordinating and executing a full range of community-based programs and initiatives for youth and adults that were aimed at reducing crime in the District of Columbia.

Judge Cordero was appointed to the Superior Court for the District of Columbia by President George W. Bush and has served as an Associate Judge in the Family Court of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia since 2005. Judge Cordero has presided over more than ninety trials and over six thousand hearings in a fast paced environment while at the same time dealing with very important issues directly affecting countless families in the District.

Judge Cordero's appointment to the bench was a historic event because she was the first Latina Associate Judge in the history of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Judge Cordero has not only demonstrated a commitment to the District of Columbia community but also a commitment to the advancement of the Hispanic community, having previously served as an HBA-DC Board Member and as a mentor to many young Hispanic lawyers and law students. Despite a very busy schedule, Judge Cordero has continuously supported many worthy causes both in the legal profession and for the benefit of the community. For example, she has volunteered as an English tutor for an elementary school and for victims of domestic violence.

In addition to her legal credentials, Judge Cordero has exhibited concern for the citizens of the District and has demonstrated her capacity to be a thoughtful and fair judge. Judge Cordero's varied experience as a judge, a veteran criminal prosecutor, a civil rights attorney, federal law clerk, and a legal aid student attorney, coupled with her sound judgment and legal acumen renders her an excellent candidate for the federal bench in the District of Columbia. The HBA-DC highly endorses Judge Laura Cordero for this trusted position because she has the experience, temperament and character to serve as a federal judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John L. Machado". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small mark below the name.

John Machado
Chair, Endorsements Committee
Hispanic Bar Association of DC