



**HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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January 14, 2010

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
433 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4502

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senate
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0104

Messrs Leahy and Sessions:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC) is pleased to continue our support of Ronald C. Machen for appointment as United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. The HBA-DC undertakes careful review and consideration of individuals who seek our endorsement. We conduct such an evaluation, which includes a personal interview, to ensure individuals with impeccable credentials, as well as proper temperament and character, are supported for this trusted position. Mr. Machen is such an individual.

Mr. Machen's extensive experience makes him an excellent candidate for the position. Mr. Machen is a graduate of Stanford University and graduated from Harvard Law School. He has previously been a law clerk for Judge Damon J. Keith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and also served as a lecturer on trial advocacy at Howard University School of Law. He currently is a partner at WilmerHale in their Litigation/Controversy Department, and is a former member of the firm's Executive Committee. While at WilmerHale, he has represented several noteworthy corporate and individual clients, as well as conducting internal investigations of several corporate clients.

Significantly, Mr. Machen has personal, hands-on experience with the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. From 1997 to 2001, Mr. Machen served as an Assistant United States Attorney in that office. During his time there, he represented the District of Columbia in both the United States District Court and the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. As an Assistant United States Attorney, he conducted grand jury investigations and prosecuted a wide assortment of matters, including bribery, mail fraud, government contracts fraud, federal conspiracy, forgery, uttering and theft. He has conducted more than 20 criminal jury trials, and has argued briefs and appeals before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. In fact, his efforts have been recognized twice within the Office, as he received two Special Achievement Awards during his tenure.

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In addition to his legal experience, Mr. Machen has received numerous well-deserved recognitions from many reputable sources. In 2008, the *National Law Journal* named Mr. Machen one of “The 50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers in America,” and he has been named as a “Super Lawyer” for his civil and criminal defense work. He has also received similar accolades for having achieved so much so rapidly, having been selected as one of the “Top 40 Lawyers Under 40” in Washington by *Washingtonian* Magazine and one of the nation’s “Top Fifty Young Litigators” under the age of 45 by the *American Lawyer*. He also formerly served as a Co-Chair of the Criminal Litigation Committee of the American Bar Association.

Mr. Machen’s extensive litigation experience, combined with his personal, amicable nature and his personal commitment and ideals would make him an excellent United States Attorney. It is the HBADC’s considered opinion that Mr. Machen possesses the skills and attributes that would serve the District of Columbia well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John L. Machado". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John L. Machado
Chairman, HBA-DC Endorsements Committee