



**HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**P.O. BOX 1011 | WASHINGTON, DC 20013
WWW.HBADC.ORG**

March 15, 2010

Via Electronic Mail and Facsimile

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid, McConnell, Lieberman, and Collins:

On January 15, 2009, the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia ("HBA-DC") offered its highest recommendation to the District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Commission for Magistrate Judge Marisa Demeo to serve as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Based on our research and deliberations, including an interview and conversations with Magistrate Judge Demeo and colleagues, we believe that her work as an Associate Judge would be a significant contribution to the bench, and respectfully urge a swift vote on her confirmation.

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 appropriate experience, temperament and character. Magistrate Judge Demeo is such an individual.

Marisa Demeo has devoted her legal career to serving the people of the District of Columbia. Most recently, she serves with distinction as Magistrate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, assigned to the criminal division of the Court. Her notable years as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Columbia underscore her commitment to public service and to upholding the rule of law. Prior to that, Ms. Demeo distinguished herself as the Regional Counsel of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, a position through which Ms. Demeo advocated on behalf of the Latino and other immigrant communities throughout the country. She also has taught at Howard University Law School and has held various other positions that demonstrate her steadfast commitment to public service.

Senators Reid, McConnell, Lieberman, and Collins

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Page Two of Two

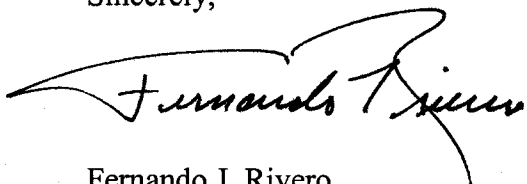
Throughout her career, Magistrate Judge Demeo has demonstrated all of the qualities that one would expect of an Associate Judge on the Superior Court. She has displayed the personal integrity, requisite temperament, interpersonal skills, and administrative, organizational, analytical and problem-solving abilities that will serve her well as an Associate Judge. Magistrate Judge Demeo meets and exceeds our criteria for support.

We are proud to note that Magistrate Judge Demeo has demonstrated a commitment to both the District of Columbia community and 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.

President Barack H. Obama nominated Marisa Demeo for Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court on March 24, 2009. Her nomination has been pending on the Senate calendar since May 20, 2009. We urge the immediate confirmation of Magistrate Judge Demeo, in part because the Superior Court has been operating with an approximate vacancy of five associate judges. The Superior Court annually sees at least 100,000 cases that impact vulnerable families in the District of Columbia who face child abuse, domestic violence, housing, and other legal issues. We believe that the delay in confirmation of Magistrate Judge Demeo is contributing to a delay in the timely administration of justice for the people of the District of Columbia.

It is the considered opinion of the HBA-DC that Magistrate Judge Demeo possesses the skills, experience, character and temperament needed to serve as an Associate Judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. We therefore join the call of the Hispanic National Bar Association and other groups for a swift vote on her confirmation and we stand ready to assist in the confirmation process should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Fernando J. Rivero
HBA-DC Vice President for Internal Affairs
Co-Chairperson, Endorsements Committee

CC: Robert Bauer, White House Counsel
The Honorable Marisa J. Demeo
The Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan, Chair, District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Commission