



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

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

August 30, 2010

The Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: HBA-DC Endorsement for United States Tax Court

Dear Senators Baucus and Grassley:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia ("HBA-DC") is pleased to support Judge Juan F. Vasquez for reappointment to the United States Tax Court with our highest endorsement. The HBA-DC undertakes careful review and consideration of individuals who seek our endorsement to ensure that individuals with impeccable credentials, as well as proper temperament and character, are supported for these trusted positions. Over his 30-year legal career, including the last 15 years on the U.S. Tax Court, Judge Vasquez has demonstrated that he has the knowledge, skills, experience, and temperament to merit an additional term on the court.

Our organization knows Judge Vasquez very well, professionally and personally. Judge Vasquez graduated with an accounting degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He then earned a J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center and an LL.M. in taxation from New York University School of Law. Prior to joining the U.S. Tax Court, Judge Vasquez honed his skills and expertise as a tax lawyer in both private practice and the Federal government. He began his legal career in the Office of the Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service in Houston, Texas, before moving to San Antonio to handle IRS, U.S. Tax Court, estate tax planning, and other federal tax matters on behalf of private clients. Nominated by President William J. Clinton, the U.S. Senate confirmed Judge Vasquez for the U.S. Tax Court in May 1995.

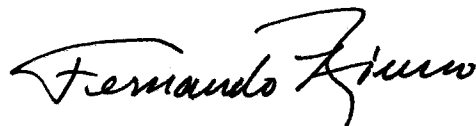
Judge Vasquez has been an influential and inspirational leader of the tax bar and a dedicated member of the D.C. community. He is an active member of the ABA Section of Taxation and its committees on employment taxes, civil and criminal penalties, and court procedure and administrative practice. He is also a prolific public speaker and educator on tax litigation, having addressed bar associations, accountants, students, and others over the years. Locally, Judge

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Vasquez has mentored many lawyers and law students, including members of the HBA-DC, providing his guidance and support on everything from succeeding in law school to becoming a judge. In November 2007, we were privileged to honor Judge Vasquez with the HBA-DC Judge Ricardo M. Urbina Lifetime Achievement Award, which is awarded to a member of the legal profession with over 15 years of principled service in the legal profession or related field who has made outstanding contributions to the Hispanic community in the areas of equality, fairness, and social justice. We know firsthand that Judge Vasquez's commitment to the profession, to the value of diversity within the profession, and to the rule of law is unwavering.

Judge Vasquez's remarkable career as a tax attorney and as a U.S. Tax Court judge, combined with his high character, grace, generosity, and civic leadership demonstrate that he is well suited for reappointment to the U.S. Tax Court. The HBA-DC wholeheartedly endorses Judge Vasquez for the position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fernando Rivero". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "F".

Fernando Rivero
Co-Chairperson, Endorsements Committee