



## HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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May 9, 2011

Via Electronic Mail: [dc.jnc@dc.gov](mailto:dc.jnc@dc.gov)

The Honorable Emmett G. Sullivan  
Chairperson  
District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission  
616 H Street, N.W., Suite 623  
Sixth Floor (Gallery Place)  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Gwendolyn McDowell Washington

Dear Judge Sullivan:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia ("HBA-DC") enthusiastically recommends Gwendolyn McDowell Washington for an Associate Judge vacancy in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. We believe, based on an interview with Ms. McDowell Washington and research and deliberations as to her professional qualifications, that she would be a significant contribution to the Superior Court.

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 such criteria as demonstrated professional qualifications, personal traits, and demonstrated commitment to the District of Columbia community and minority communities.

Since October of 1999, Ms. Washington has worked at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS) as a staff attorney, and most recently, as a civil legal services staff attorney and immigrant defense consultant. During her tenure at PDS, she has tried over 500 felony and misdemeanor cases before the Superior Court and has served as lead or solo counsel in housing and employment trials and evidentiary hearings. In addition to her experience in criminal law, employment, and housing law, Ms. McDowell Washington has also published the Public Defender Service Immigrant Defense Quick Reference Guide, which is a practice guide for lawyers representing non-citizen defendants in criminal cases.

The HBA-DC also seeks to support judicial candidates who have a demonstrated commitment to the District's community, as well as to the rights and advancement of the Hispanic and other historically disadvantaged communities. Apart from her extensive work on

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behalf of indigent clients of PDS, Ms. Washington is a member of the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia. In addition, Ms. Washington has shared her expertise and passion for immigrant defense by not only producing the PDS Immigrant Defense Quick Reference Guide but by also being a frequent presenter and panelist at numerous trainings on immigration defense related subjects since 2004.

In sum, the HBA-DC is pleased to recommend Ms. McDowell Washington for an Associate Judge position in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. If we can be of further assistance in the nomination process, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Alberto Rivera-Fournier

Chair

HBA-DC Endorsements Committee