



## HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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August 12, 2011

*Via Electronic Mail: 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: Endorsement of Todd Sunhwaee Kim**

Dear Judge Sullivan:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (“HBA-DC”) recommends Todd Sunhwaee Kim for an Associate Judge vacancy in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. We believe, based on an interview with Mr. Kim and research and deliberations as to his professional qualifications, that he would make a significant contribution to the D.C. Court of Appeals.

The HBA-DC undertakes a careful review of individuals who seek its endorsement. We ensure that endorsement candidates 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 or minority communities.

Mr. Kim has an impressive public service career in appellate practice. For eight years, Mr. Kim served as an attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Appellate Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division. In 2005, he received a Gold Medal from the Environmental Protection Agency and in 2008 he received the Attorney General’s Award for Outstanding Division Head. During his time at the Department of Justice, Mr. Kim practiced extensively before all thirteen U.S. Courts of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court.

In April 2006, Mr. Kim was named the District of Columbia’s first Solicitor General. In that capacity, he has represented the District of Columbia before the D.C. Court of Appeals in a variety of civil and criminal cases, including such landmark cases as *Jackson v. District of Columbia Board of Elections & Ethics*, defending D.C.’s same-sex marriage legislation, and *Heller v. District of Columbia*, defending D.C.’s handgun ban. We believe Mr. Kim’s extensive

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appellate experience before both federal and D.C. appellate courts would be an asset to the bench of the D.C. Court of Appeals.

Finally, Mr. Kim has been an active member of both the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, D.C. The HBA-DC is pleased to recommend Mr. Kim for an Associate Judge position in the D.C. Court of Appeals. If we can be of further assistance in the nomination process, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Alberto Rivera-Fournier  
Chairperson  
HBA-DC Endorsements Committee