



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 Lorelie Sue Masters

Dear Judge Sullivan:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (“HBA-DC”) recommends Lorelie Sue Masters for an Associate Judge vacancy in the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. We believe, based on an interview with Ms. Masters and research and deliberations as to her professional qualifications, that she 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 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 or minority communities.

Ms. Masters has a distinguished and impressive career in the private sector focusing on insurance coverage law. In addition to being the co-author of the various treatises, Ms. Masters has been widely recognized by professional organizations, including *Best Lawyers in America*, as a leading practitioner in her field. Ms. Masters has handled complex cases in federal and state trial and appellate courts across the United States and, more recently, in arbitrations in the United States and abroad.

Ms. Masters has also contributed significantly to the legal profession in the District of Columbia by serving in various capacities in the American Bar Association, the District of Columbia Bar, and in the Women’s Bar Association (“WBA”) of the District of Columbia. In particular, she has worked extensively in promoting and advancing the role of women in the legal profession. As WBA President, she worked on the WBA’s Initiative on Advancement and

Retention of Women and helped organize the WBA's Diversity Summit in 2008, which examined the combined effects of race and gender facing women of color in the legal profession. Ms. Masters oversaw the writing and publication of *Creating Pathways to Success for All*, which detailed the Summit's findings and recommendations. In addition, Ms. Masters was selected as one of two delegates to represent the District of Columbia at Vision 2020's "American Conversation about Women and Leadership" in Philadelphia in October 2010. Vision 2020 is a decade-long national project focused on advancing gender equality by energizing the dialogue about women and leadership.

In addition to her private practice and volunteer bar activities, Ms. Masters has also found time to provide *pro bono* services to individuals and organizations in a variety of matters. She has represented policyholders denied health insurance coverage for experimental matters; individuals in their efforts to obtain compensation and "T-visas" under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, in one case obtaining a judgment for \$1,000,000 in back wages, interest, and statutory and other damages; and advised DC Vote on legal issues, including employment, intellectual property, and governance issues, and with regard to legal issues relating to the organization's mission of obtaining full democracy, including voting representation in the United States Congress, for residents of the District of Columbia.

In sum, the HBA-DC enthusiastically recommends Ms. Masters 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