



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

**P.O. Box 1011 | WASHINGTON, DC 20013
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November 10, 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

Dear Judge Sullivan:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (“HBA-DC”) is pleased to provide its highest endorsement to Magistrate Judge Aida L. Melendez for an appointment as an Associate Judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The HBA-DC undertakes a careful review and consideration of the individuals who seek our 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. Magistrate Judge Melendez is such a candidate.

Magistrate Judge Melendez has devoted her legal career to serving the people of the District of Columbia. Her distinguished career at the Office of the Corporation Counsel (now known as the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia), including her work in the Criminal Division, the Legal Counsel Division, and finally as Chief of the Child Support Unit, demonstrate not only a steady and consistent commitment to public service but also to upholding the rule of law. Throughout her government career, including her appointment to the bench, Magistrate Judge Melendez has demonstrated the professional experience and personal integrity as well as the temperament and interpersonal skills to meet and exceed our criteria for support.

Through her service as the presiding Magistrate Judge and her membership in various court committees, Ms. Melendez has ably displayed the requisite administrative and organizational skills and the analytical and problem solving skills that commend her to a position as an Associate Judge. Moreover, her diverse legal background, having practiced on both sides of the bench, will be a real strength and add to the diversity of experience that will benefit the Superior Court.

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Judge Melendez has also impressed us favorably as a testament to overcoming obstacles on the way to the bench, which might have deterred others. She grew up in an economically challenged environment with high levels of crime. Nevertheless, Judge Melendez managed to attain her dream of post-secondary education. Despite such challenges as attending an unaccredited law school, Judge Melendez has been capably serving as a Magistrate Judge for many years. Moreover, she rose to be an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves, from which she retired as a Lt. Colonel after 28 years of service.

We are both pleased and proud to note that Magistrate Judge Melendez has not only demonstrated a commitment to the District of Columbia community, but also a commitment 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 the District.

It is the considered opinion of the HBA-DC that Magistrate Judge Melendez possesses the skills, experience, character and temperament needed for a judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. We enthusiastically provide our highest endorsement.

Sincerely,



Alberto Rivera-Fournier
Chairperson
HBA-DC Endorsements Committee