



35th Anniversary

HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

P.O. Box 1011 | Washington, D.C. 20013-1011

www.hbadc.org

June 12, 2012

Via Electronic Mail: rhonda.winston@dcsc.gov

The Honorable Rhonda Reid Winston
Chairperson
Committee on the Selection and Tenure of Magistrate Judges
H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse
500 Indiana Avenue, NW
Chambers 5640
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Endorsement of Kenia Seoane López

Dear Judge Winston:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (“HBA-DC”) gives its highest endorsement to Kenia Seoane López for a Magistrate Judge vacancy in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia (“Superior Court”). We believe, based on Ms. Seoane López’s distinguished service with the HBA-DC, her unwavering commitment to the District of Columbia Hispanic community, and her professional qualifications honed before Superior Court, that she would make a significant contribution to the Superior Court and the residents of the District of Columbia.

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.

Ms. Seoane López has a distinguished and diversified career working before the Superior Court. After spending one year as law clerk to ten senior Judges, she became an Assistant Attorney General at the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, where she represented the District in child support cases for four years. During that time, she served as a member of the Superior Court Domestic Violence Task Force. Later, she moved to her present position as a Bilingual Attorney Negotiator for the Domestic Violence Unit. In that capacity, she functions as neutral arbitrator and assists litigants in negotiating Civil Protection Orders, which often include custody and visitation orders, and serves as legal counsel to the Domestic Violence Unit Director and Judges.

Ms. Seoane López is a passionate and tireless advocate for the D.C. Hispanic community. She is a Board member of the Spanish Education and Development Center, whose mission is to integrate Spanish speaking and other immigrants into the mainstream of District life, and of Latinas Leading Tomorrow, a nonprofit that promotes positive Latina identity and empowerment through leadership skills to Latinas 11-18 years of age.

For many years, Ms. Seoane López has been a visionary HBA-DC leader. She is a past President and current Board member of HBA-DC. Among her many accomplishments at HBA-DC, she was the force behind the creation of the HBA-DC Judicial Council, which serves as a support network and a forum for matters of importance to Hispanic members of the Judiciary. She was also instrumental in this year's launching of a Summer Judicial Internship Program. Through that program, eight law students were selected to serve as interns to federal and local judges in the District of Columbia where they will receive bi-weekly training to prepare and assist them in their internships and network with judges in the District. Ms. Seoane López has also served as a mentor to many aspiring lawyers and law students.

Ms. Seoane López has also had a significant impact on educating the Hispanic community about the importance of the judicial system. Over the years, she has planned many panels such as how to become an associate or magistrate judge and how to apply for the Family Court Panels. She also organized a community forum to inform the public about the new housing conditions calendar in the Superior Court. For many years, Ms. Seoane López has been involved with the planning committee of the Robert Wone Clerkship Conference, an annual conference that brings judges and judicial clerks from Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, to meet with law students to discuss judicial internships and clerkships. She has also worked in organizing the Superior Court and D.C. Bar Annual Youth Law Fair.

In sum, the HBA-DC is pleased to give its highest endorsement to Ms. Seoane López for a Magistrate 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