July 3, 2012

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 Noel Thomas Johnson

Dear Judge Sullivan:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (“HBA-DC”) enthusiastically endorses Magistrate Judge Noel Thomas Johnson’s nomination for an Associate Judge vacancy in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia (“Superior Court”). We believe, based on an interview with Magistrate Judge Johnson and research and deliberations as to his professional qualifications, that he 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.

Magistrate Judge Johnson has devoted his legal career to serving the people of the District of Columbia. His distinguished career at the Office of the Corporation Counsel (now known as the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia), including his work in the Child Support Section as a Trial Attorney and Section Chief, and finally as Senior Counsel for Child Support in the Family Services Division, demonstrate not only a steady and consistent commitment to public service but also to upholding the rule of law. Throughout his government career, including his appointment to the bench, Magistrate Judge Johnson has demonstrated the professional experience and personal integrity as well as the temperament and interpersonal skills to meet our criteria for support.
Through his service as a presiding Magistrate Judge since 2002, and his membership in various court committees, Magistrate Judge Johnson has ably displayed the requisite administrative, organizational, analytical and problem solving skills that qualify him for the position as Associate Judge. Moreover, his 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.

Magistrate Judge Johnson has a long history of involvement in bar activities focusing on improving access to the courts for disadvantaged and minority litigants, including Hispanics. As a long-time member of the D.C. Bar’s Public Service Activities Corporation and the Family Law Representation Committee, Magistrate Judge Johnson has drafted simplified bilingual brochures and forms for pro se litigants and drafted recommendations for changes in court procedures to benefit pro se litigants.

We are both pleased and proud to note that Magistrate Judge Johnson has not only demonstrated a commitment to the District of Columbia community, but also a commitment to supporting and promoting the advancement of minority students and young attorneys as a litigator, an administrator, and later as a Magistrate Judge, enhancing the experience of minority students and attorneys throughout the District.

It is the considered opinion of the HBA-DC that Magistrate Judge Johnson possesses the skills, experience, character and temperament needed for an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. We enthusiastically provide our endorsement.

Sincerely,

Alberto Rivera-Fournier
Chair
HBA-DC Endorsements Committee