



HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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35th Anniversary

November 14, 2012

Ms. Nyasha Smith
Secretary to the Council
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 5
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: Highest Endorsement of Alejandra Y. Castillo for Board of Trustee,
University of the District of Columbia

Dear Ms. Smith:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (“HBA-DC”) is pleased to give it highest endorsement to Alejandra Y. Castillo for a position on the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia. We believe, based on Ms. Castillo’s exemplary service with the Hispanic Bar, her distinguished service with the federal government, and her unwavering commitment to the District of Columbia Hispanic community, that she would make a significant contribution to the Board of Trustees at the University of the District of Columbia.

The HBA-DC undertakes a careful review of individuals who seek its endorsement to ensure that individuals with impeccable credentials, as well as proper temperament and character, are supported for these trusted positions. 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.

Our organization knows Ms. Castillo very well, both professionally and personally. Ms. Castillo commenced her legal career as a law clerk for the Honorable Laura A. Cordero of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, where Ms. Castillo authored over eighty five findings of fact and conclusions of law decisions in civil and criminal contempt matters. She also assisted in oversight of the District’s juvenile drug court program. After completing her clerkship, Ms. Castillo went into private practice, and was subsequently named the Executive Director of the Hispanic National Bar Association (“HNBA”).

During her tenure with the HNBA, Ms. Castillo was charged with supporting the nomination of Justice Sotomayor to the Supreme Court of the United States and managed the HNBA’s endorsement process of Latino attorneys under consideration for judicial and executive branch appointments. She was a visionary leader. Through her work at HNBA, she assisted in

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the development of current and long term organizational goals and policies for HNBA's operations. Thereafter, Ms. Castillo joined the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration ("ITA"). At the ITA, she was responsible for the development and execution of ITA's outreach strategy to key industry and geographically-based business stakeholders. She also assisted in developing policy and programs aimed at strengthening ITA's initiatives on anti-corruption under Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

In 2010, President Obama appointed Ms. Castillo to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency ("MBDA"), where she continues to serve. At the MBDA, Ms. Castillo serves as a principal advisor to the MBDA National Director and is responsible for the Agency's day-to-day operations, which includes managing the agency's multi-million dollar budget and eighty employees located in multiple locations. She also executes the Agency's national business strategy through public-private partnership opportunities. She is a member of the White House Business Council Initiative and a key member of the President's Interagency Taskforce on Federal Procurement Opportunities for Small Businesses.

Ms. Castillo has been an influential and inspirational leader in the District's Hispanic community for many years. She has served on the board of directors of Jovenes Lideres and she has chaired the HNBA's presidential appointments project. She has also mentored many Hispanic attorneys. In 2010, HBA-DC awarded Ms. Castillo with our prestigious Rising Star Award.

In sum, the HBA-DC wholeheartedly gives its highest endorsement to Ms. Castillo for a position on the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia. We know firsthand that Ms. Castillo is committed to the advancement of the profession, to the value of diversity within the profession, and we are confident that her leadership will serve the University of the District of Columbia well. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,



Maria G. Mendoza, Board of Director
Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia