



HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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May 6, 2014

Ms. Pauline A. Schneider
Commission Chair
Federal Law Enforcement Nominating Commission
Ballard Spahr LLP
1909 K Street, NW, 12th Floor
Washington, DC 20006-1157

Re: Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia Highest Endorsement of William Alvarado Rivera for District Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

Dear Ms. Schneider:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC) is pleased to give its highest endorsement to William Alvarado Rivera for District Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. We believe, based on Mr. Rivera's exemplary service as a past President and longtime leader in the HBA-DC, distinguished legal achievements at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and proven commitment to the Latino and immigrant communities, that he would be a valued contributor to the District Court.

The HBA-DC undertakes a careful review of candidates who seek its endorsement to make certain that individuals with impeccable credentials, as well as proper temperament and character, are promoted to these trusted positions. We ensure that candidates for endorsement meet the letter and spirit of our endorsement policy, which includes such criteria as established professional qualifications, a demonstrated commitment to the Latino and District of Columbia community in general, and to the advancement of other minority communities.

Mr. Rivera has been a litigator since 1995. His diversified career includes nearly 20 years of federal practice experience in a wide range of matters, including administrative, constitutional, bankruptcy, False Claims Act, Freedom of Information and Privacy Act, and federal contract law. Mr. Rivera currently serves as Deputy Chief Counsel at the HHS Office of the General Counsel, Children, Families, and Aging Division, and also served as Chief of Litigation. His duties have comprised review of briefs, case strategy, and discovery, all areas helpful to a federal judge's understanding of his own work. Thus, Mr. Rivera's distinguished career, comprising both substantive law and litigation experience, has prepared him exceedingly well for a judicial position in the U.S. District Court.

Mr. Rivera has also demonstrated a commitment to the rights and advancement of the Hispanic community, to the District of Columbia community, and to the rights and advancement of historically disadvantaged communities with an impressive record of volunteer work. HBA-DC has been fortunate to be a beneficiary of Mr. Rivera's volunteer career; he served as President in 2011 and has a long record of service in HBA-DC committees and on the Board of the HBA-DC Foundation, which awards summer fellowships to law students working for public interest legal organizations.

Mr. Rivera has also volunteered with the HBA-DC and DC Bar pro bono legal advice and referral clinics at the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School. These quarterly clinics, historically covering many civil matters and now focused on immigration, are a vital way that conscientious lawyers like Mr. Rivera discharge their pro bono obligations for the benefit of vulnerable populations like the District's immigrant community. In the same vein, Mr. Rivera has also participated in the DC Bar Spanish Language Small Business Brief Advice Legal Clinic, providing legal assistance to small business entrepreneurs serving low-income communities or who are economically disadvantaged. He currently volunteers reviewing applications for the Esperanza Education Fund, which awards college scholarships to local immigrants regardless of ethnicity or immigration status.

Mr. Rivera's admirable record of commitment to community service builds precisely the kind of profile that HBA-DC wishes to hold up to the legal profession as an example of the ideal candidate for judicial office, for it is through experiencing the challenges of the Hispanic and other communities that a judge gains the necessary empathy that will inform the fairness of judicial decisions, particularly those involving vulnerable litigants.

Finally, Mr. Rivera has displayed one of the most unmatched commitments to advancing Hispanic attorneys in the profession that HBA-DC has observed. He has mentored countless Latino law students over the years. He has advocated for other well-qualified Hispanic candidates to diversify the judiciary. And he has provided the programmatic leadership that has resulted in vital professional development opportunity for HBA-DC members.

For these reasons, the HBA-DC is both proud and excited to give its highest endorsement to William Alvarado Rivera for a District Judge position on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. We understand the Federal Law Enforcement Nominating Commission values highly qualified candidates to increase diversity in the federal judiciary. HBA-DC supports this critical goal, especially in the face of our nation's changing demographic and its impact on the nation's justice system in years to come. The Commission is well placed to advance Mr. Rivera as the ideal, highly qualified candidate to promote a diverse judiciary.

Please let me know if you require further information in support of Mr. Rivera. I can be reached via email at president@hbadc.org and by telephone at 202-422-5605.

Sincerely,



Fernando Rivero
President
Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia