



HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

P.O. Box 1011 | Washington, D.C. 20013-1011
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April 24, 2015

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

Re: Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia's Endorsement of
Vincent H. Cohen, Jr. for United States Attorney for the District of Columbia.

Dear Ms. Schneider:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC) is pleased to give its endorsement to Vincent H. Cohen, Jr. for United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. We believe, based on Mr. Cohen's exemplary career at the U.S. Attorney's Office, his distinguished legal achievements, dedication to the community of the District, and proven commitment to the Latino and immigrant communities, that he would be an outstanding United States Attorney.

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 community, District of Columbia in general, or to the advancement of other minority communities.

Mr. Cohen is currently the Acting U.S. Attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia (the "Office"). For four years prior, Mr. Cohen served as Principal Assistant U.S. Attorney, managing the day-to-day operations of one of the largest United States Attorney's Office in the country with nearly 600 attorneys and staff. He managed the prosecution of both federal cases and all serious local crimes in D.C. Superior Court, in addition to managing the affirmative and defensive civil litigation on behalf of the United States in federal court. Mr. Cohen first joined the Office in 1997 as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Criminal Division, after a clerkship with the Honorable Judge Cheryl M. Long in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Mr. Cohen moved, after a rotation in the Civil Division of the Office from 2001 to 2003, to the private sector. While at Hogan and Hartson, LLP, Mr. Cohen litigated a wide range of civil and criminal cases with a particular focus on white-collar criminal litigation and employment law. He subsequently became a partner at Schertler & Onorato, L.L.P. in 2006,

where he represented individuals and corporate clients in the areas of white-collar criminal defense, complex civil litigation, and congressional investigations. He re-joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2010 as Principal Assistant U.S. Attorney. Thus, Mr. Cohen's distinguished career covering both prosecution and defense, and, in particular, his commitment to the Office, have prepared him exceedingly well to be the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia.

Mr. Cohen 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. He formerly served on the Board of Directors of the Washington Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, where he worked to encourage the pro bono efforts of D.C. law firms performing civil rights work. Additionally, he has been honored twice by the National Bar Association, receiving its Presidential Star Award in 2014 and its "Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40" Award in 2010. He is a member of the National Bar Association, and the HBA-DC. As Principal Assistant U.S. Attorney, Mr. Cohen has also supported and participated in a wide variety of community outreach efforts designed to serve Hispanic citizens in the District, including, for instance, programs at Bell MultiCultural and Cardozo International High Schools that focus on leadership development and decision making skills for Latino youth.

His commitment to public service continued even while in private practice where Mr. Cohen served as the General Counsel of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. of Greater Washington, a nonprofit organization focused on making a difference in the lives of young people through its signature programs of mentoring, education, economic empowerment, health and wellness, and leadership development. He was also heavily involved in Hogan & Hartson's *pro bono* practice, including a lengthy representation in which he worked with Loretta Lynch, then a partner at the firm and the current United States Attorney General, to travel to Africa and conduct an investigation on behalf of the United Nation's International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Finally, Mr. Cohen has displayed an admirable commitment to advancing Hispanic attorneys in the profession and in the U.S. Attorney's Office. During Mr. Cohen's tenure overseeing the Office's recruitment and hiring, he has been involved in a variety of initiatives to successfully increase hiring of Latino applicants to serve as Assistant U.S. Attorneys. For instance, he worked with the U.S. Attorney to host luncheons in the Office for diverse attorneys, including HBA-DC members, to introduce them to the work of the Office and its opportunities. He also welcomed our members in the Office's presentation of its summer internship program. As the Chair of the Office's Diversity Committee, Mr. Cohen's commitment to diversity and fairness included developing programs designed to support Latino lawyers.

Mr. Cohen'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 this position. For these reasons, the HBA-DC is both proud and excited to give its endorsement to Vincent H. Cohen, Jr. for the position of United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. The Commission is well placed to advance Mr. Cohen as the ideal, highly qualified, candidate for this position.

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Please let me know if you require further information in support of Mr. Cohen. I may be reached at (301) 529-8307 or president@hbadc.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juan M. Sempertegui". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Juan M. Sempertegui
President
Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia