



# HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

P.O. Box 1011 | Washington, D.C. 20013-1011  
[www.hbadc.org](http://www.hbadc.org)

April 14, 2017

Via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Russell F. Canan  
Committee on the Selection and Tenure of  
Magistrate Judges  
H. Carl Moultrie I Courthouse  
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.  
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**Re: Endorsement of Jorge M. Vila for Magistrate Judge, Superior Court of the  
District of Columbia**

Dear Judge Canan and Ms. O'Rourke:

On behalf of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC), I write to communicate the HBA-DC's endorsement of Jorge M. Vila for the magistrate judge vacancy on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

As the leading bar association for Latino attorneys in the DC area, the HBA-DC is committed to promoting the appointment of highly qualified and diverse candidates to leadership positions in our local judiciary. Our Endorsements Committee has for many years considered the credentials of numerous attorneys who aspire to fill important government positions in the D.C. area, including on the U.S. District and D.C. Superior Courts. We only endorse the best-qualified candidates for those positions after a careful assessment of the candidate's professional qualifications, legal practice and experience, demeanor, and commitment to public service.

After careful consideration, the HBA-DC is pleased to give Mr. Villa our endorsement. We are confident that he would be a valuable addition to the Superior Court as a magistrate judge. Mr. Vila would bring years of experience as a practitioner in areas of the law that are often at issue in matters addressed by magistrate judges in Superior Court. As one of the few Spanish-speaking members of the court's Counselor for Children of Abuse and Neglect panel, he has taken on a significant caseload of family law matters involving Spanish-speaking parties. In a number of cases, he has gone beyond what is required of a zealous advocate to ensure the wellbeing of his clients. Mr. Vila has also demonstrated a strong commitment to our community as a volunteer for the Latin American Youth Center, where he has provided training and



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education to families designed to prevent abuse and neglect. During his interview with the Endorsements Committee, Mr. Vila demonstrated the thoughtfulness and poise that is consistent with the temperament needed to be a successful jurist.

We urge you to select Mr. Vila for the magistrate judge vacancy.

Very Respectfully,

Ben Hernández-Stern  
President  
Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia

Copies: The Honorable Kenia Seoane-Lopez  
Carmen Banerjee, Esq.  
Catherine Meza, Esq.  
Jorge Villa, Esq.