



HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

P.O. Box 1011 | Washington, D.C. 20013-1011
www.hbadc@hbadc.org

July 20, 2017

Via Email at dc.jnc@dc.gov

Ms. Katherine L. Garrett
Executive Director
Judicial Nomination Commission
515 5th Street NW, Suite 235
Washington, DC 20001

**Re: Endorsement of Administrative Law Judge Paul Handy for Associate Judge,
Superior Court of the District of Columbia**

Dear Ms. Garrett:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC) is pleased to endorse the Honorable Administrative Law Judge Paul Handy for an Associate Judge position on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia (Superior Court). We believe, based on Judge Handy's broad and vast experience as an Administrative Law Judge, his commitment to social justice, and his personal qualities and professional qualifications, that he would be a valued addition to the Superior Court's roster of Associate Judges.

The HBA-DC undertakes a careful review of individuals who seek its endorsement in order to make certain that individuals with impeccable credentials, as well as proper temperament and character, are supported for the trusted positions they seek. We ensure that endorsees meet the letter and spirit of our Endorsement Policy, which includes such criteria as established professional qualifications, a demonstrated commitment to the District of Columbia community in general, as well as the rights and advancements of minority communities.

Administrative Law Judge Handy possesses the requisite professional experience to serve as an Associate Judge, as demonstrated by his broad experience in the public and private sectors. Judge Handy began his legal career in 1986 as a solo practitioner with a general law practice. In 1990, Judge Handy began his service in public defender roles with the Maryland Mental Health Division and then with the Frederick County District 11, where he handled felony trials and related cases and was named Attorney of the Year for both offices. In 1998, Judge Handy began his seven-year tenure as an Administrative Law Judge in Maryland's Office of Administrative Hearings, where he presided over cases involving health, child abuse and neglect, special education, community development and inmate grievances.

Since 2004, Judge Handy has served as an Administrative Law Judge with the DC Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), where he has handled a high volume of wide-ranging cases, including licensing, tax, public benefits, public safety, transportation, rental housing (mediations only), student discipline hearings, and consumer affairs. He has also conducted numerous mediations. For more than six years as an Administrative Law Judge, he also has developed and implemented training programs for judges and staff, including coordination of a mediation training program run by the University of Maryland's Center for Dispute Resolution. For coordinating the mediation training program, Judge Handy received the Certificate of Meritorious Service to OAH in 2007.

Judge Handy also has been involved in efforts to improve the administration of justice and to promote the advancement of women in the judiciary, as evidenced by his efforts with OAH, his involvement in professional law associations, and public service recognitions. As a judicial officer, Judge Handy also has worked to improve access to justice by developing materials to assist *pro se* litigants prepare for their cases or find free or reduced-fee legal representation. For over 18 years, Judge Handy has been an active leader of the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary, including service as its president in 2010-2011. He also has been active with the National Association of Women Judges for over four years. In 2011, Judge Handy was a finalist for the Cafritz Awards for Public Service to the D.C. Community.

Judge Handy is also committed to the advancement of minority communities, as evidenced by his plays highlighting social justice themes and his participation in HBA-DC. Judge Handy has written a number of plays highlighting social justice and cultural sensitivity themes that have been performed to raise money for student scholarships. His plays have tackled such topics as Thurgood Marshall and the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Montgomery bus boycott, Belva Lockwood, the first woman admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court, and the story of his wife's parents who met in Spain during the Spanish Civil War and then immigrated to the U.S. Judge Handy is also a member of HBA-DC, who has frequented many of HBA-DC's marquis events.

In sum, the HBA-DC is pleased to endorse Administrative Law Judge Paul Handy for an Associate Judge position on the Superior Court. Judge Handy is a well-regarded judicial officer, an advocate for social justice and access to justice, and possesses the requisite professional experience and personal qualities to serve as an Associate Judge.

Very Respectfully,



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

cc:

Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan, Chair
U.S. District Court for the District of
Columbia
United States Courthouse
333 Constitution Avenue, NW
Chambers 4935-Annex
Washington, DC 20001
Email: jnc@dcd.uscourts.gov

Mr. William Lucy
1831 Sudbury Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20012
Email: Williamlucy1@comcast.net

Addy R. Schmitt, Esq.
Miller & Chevalier, Chtd.
900 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
Email: aschmitt@milchev.com

Benjamin F. Wilson, Esq.
Beveridge & Diamond, PC
1350 I St. NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
Email: bwilson@bdlaw.com

Catherine Meza
Co-Chair, HBA-DC Endorsements
Committee
Email: catherine.meza@gmail.com

Ronald S. Flagg, Esq.
Legal Services Corporation
3333 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007
Email: rflagg@lsc.gov

John J. McAvoy, Esq.
3110 Brandywine Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008
Email: mcavoylaw@aol.com

Rev. Morris L. Shearin, Sr.
Israel Baptist Church
1251 Saratoga Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20018
Email: RevShearin1jnc@yahoo.com

Carmen Banerjee
Co-Chair, HBA-DC Endorsements
Committee
Email: cmbaner@yahoo.com

Holli Feichko
Board liaison, HBA-DC Endorsements
Committee
Email: hollif@hotmail.com