



HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

September 24, 2018

Via Electronic Mail to dc.jnc@dc.gov

Ms. Bianca Garcia
Executive Director
Judicial Nomination Commission
515 5th Street, NW Suite 235
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Highest Endorsement of Magistrate Judge Kenia Seoane López for Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Dear Judge Sullivan and Ms. Garcia:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC) gives its highest endorsement to the Honorable Magistrate Judge Kenia Seoane López for an Associate Judge position on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia (Superior Court). We believe, based on Judge Seoane Lopez's distinguished service with the HBA-DC, her unwavering commitment to the District of Columbia Hispanic community, and her professional qualifications honed in the Superior Court, that she would make a significant contribution to the Superior Court and the residents of the District of Columbia.

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 endorsed candidates 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.

Magistrate Judge Seoane López has had a distinguished legal career. Prior to her appointment as Magistrate Judge, she served as a Bilingual Attorney Negotiator in the Domestic Violence Unit of the Superior Court. In that capacity, she has developed a reputation as a fair and neutral arbitrator in administering justice and has been appointed to a number of leadership roles within the Superior Court, including selection to the Family Court Rules Advisory Committee. As a sign of her reputation among her colleagues on the bench, Magistrate Judge Seoane López was appointed to help redraft portions of the Family Court Bench Book. Before her appointment to the bench, Judge Seoane López also served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Legal Services Section of the Child Support Division in the Office of the Attorney General

for the District of Columbia. In this role, she represented the District in child support cases for four years. During that time, she also served as a member of the Superior Court Domestic Violence Task Force. As her record reflects, for over 16 years, Magistrate Judge Seoane López has been a trailblazing presence in the local legal community.

Magistrate Judge Seoane López is a passionate and tireless advocate for the Washington, D.C. Hispanic community. She is a Board member of the Spanish Education and Development Center, whose mission is to integrate Spanish speaking and other immigrants into the mainstream of District life, and a Board member of Latinas Leading Tomorrow, a nonprofit organization that promotes positive Latina identity and empowerment through leadership skills to Latinas 11to18 years of age.

Magistrate Judge Seoane López's commitment to diversity and her impact on the Latino legal community is unparalleled. Judge Seoane López was a visionary leader of the HBA-DC for many years, including as a past president of HBA-DC and the current head of HBA-DC's Judicial Council. As HBA-DC President, she transformed HBA-DC and started a number of initiatives that now define the organization. A significant change was the creation of the HBA-DC Judicial Council, which has served as a support network and a forum for matters important to Latino members of the Judiciary. She also founded the Judicial Council's Summer Judicial Internship Program. The Program has placed dozens of Latino law students in courtrooms throughout the District of Columbia, including the Superior Court, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, the United States District Court, and the Federal Circuit Court.

Magistrate Judge Seoane López has also had a significant impact on educating the Hispanic community about the importance of the judicial system. Over the years, she has planned many panels on such topics as how to become an associate or magistrate judge and how to apply for the Family Court Panels. She also organized a community forum to inform the public about the new housing conditions calendar in the Superior Court. For many years, Judge Seoane López has been involved with the planning committee of the Robert Wone Clerkship Conference, an annual conference that brings judges and judicial clerks from Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, to meet with law students to discuss judicial internships and clerkships. She has also worked in organizing the Superior Court and D.C. Bar Annual Youth Law Fair. The impressive record that Magistrate Judge Seoane López has compiled in educating the Hispanic community about the judiciary reflects her exemplary commitment to both the District of Columbia and to the advancement of minority communities, in part by helping to ensure that judicial diversity in the District reflects the diversity of the community, which in turn leads to greater legitimacy for the role of courts in resolving disputes.

In sum, the HBA-DC is proud and honored to give its highest endorsement to Judge Seoane López, a judicial officer of the highest caliber with the requisite professional experience and personal qualities to be a successful Associate Judge. If we can be of further assistance in the nomination process, please let us know.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard V. Rodriguez', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Richard V. Rodriguez

President

Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia

President@hbadc.org

Copies to:

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

The Honorable Marie C. Johns
Leftwich LLC
1400 K Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005-2403
(202) 434-9124
mjohns@leftwichllc.com

Mario Cuahulte
Co-Chair, HBA-DC Endorsements
Committee
Email: mcuahutle@gmail.com

Carmen Banerjee
Board Liaison, HBA-DC Endorsements
Committee
Email: carmenbanerjee@gmail.com