



# HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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February 21, 2020

*Via Electronic Mail to dc.jnc@dc.gov*

Judicial Nomination Commission  
515 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 235  
Washington, DC 20001

**Re: Highest Endorsement of Edward O'Connell for Associate Judge,  
Superior Court of the District of Columbia**

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC) is pleased to endorse Edward O'Connell for one of the vacant Associate Judge positions on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia (Superior Court). Based on our careful consideration of Mr. O'Connell's experience and record, we believe that his service as an Associate Judge would be a significant contribution to the Superior Court and to the residents of the District of Columbia.

As the leading bar association for Hispanic attorneys in the Washington, DC area, the HBA-DC is committed to promoting the appointment of highly qualified and diverse candidates to leadership positions in our local judiciary. The HBA-DC undertakes a careful review of individuals who seek its endorsement to make certain that individuals with impeccable credentials, as well as proper temperament and character, are supported for 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 District of Columbia in general, as well as the rights and advancement of minority communities.

Mr. O'Connell's legal career and public service reflects a solid commitment to advocating for underserved communities. In his work as an Assistant United States Attorney here in Washington, D.C., Mr. O'Connell developed relationships with individual victims and witnesses to build trust and to address crime that plagues our community. Mr. O'Connell is also an accomplished litigator with many years of experience.

We are particularly pleased to mention that Mr. O'Connell has dedicated his efforts as an Assistant United States Attorney to areas of Washington, D.C. that are heavily populated by members of the Hispanic community. He has focused on educating members of the Hispanic community about the criminal justice system to increase trust and communication with the United States Attorney's office and law enforcement. He also provide pro bono intake interviews for clients seeking legal services from Catholic Charities in Maryland to help them articulate

their legal needs and refer them to the appropriate legal resources. Mr. O'Connell's dedication to improving and ensuring equal access to justice reflect the values HBA-DC seeks in candidates for judicial office.

We are confident that Mr. O'Connell's professional experience, legal acumen and skills, and unwavering commitment to the highest ideals of the legal professional and equal justice will make him an outstanding Associate Judge. We urge you to select Edward O'Connell for the Associate Judge vacancy.

Respectfully Yours,



Ruben F. Reyna  
President  
Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia