



# HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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March 27, 2020

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

**Attention: JNC Executive Director  
515 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 235  
Washington, DC 20001**

**Re: Endorsement of Paul Wolfson for an Associate Judge position with the D.C.  
Court of Appeals**

Dear D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC) is pleased to extend its endorsement to Paul Wolfson for an Associate Judge position with D.C. Court of Appeals. Mr. Wolfson is a distinguished appellate attorney who has a demonstrated interest and history of advancing the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged communities and serving the residents of the District of Columbia. We are confident that he would make an outstanding Associate Judge.

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. Wolfson is a Partner and Co-Chair of the Appellate and Supreme Court Group at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP. In that capacity, he has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court and in numerous appellate courts and trial courts throughout the country, and his cases have involved diverse federal and state constitutional, statutory, and common law issues. During his time as an Assistant to the Solicitor General, he argued a number of cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and earned the U.S. Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for "exemplary representation of the United States before the Supreme Court." Mr. Wolfson has additional legal experience in private and public interest firms, as well as clerkships with both Judge Phyllis Kravitch of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and with Justice Byron White on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Most notable about Mr. Wolfson, however, is his compassion for marginalized and vulnerable communities and ensuring equal justice for all. Mr. Wolfson is the founding member of the LGBT Bar Association of Washington, DC, and he devotes a significant part of his current practice to pro bono litigation, including cases involving LGBTQ equality and voting rights. For instance, Mr. Wolfson is currently representing Harvard University in litigation defending against a challenge to the University's race-conscious admissions program, which directly affects the admission of Hispanic, African-American, and other underrepresented groups. Also, as a member of the ABA's Section on Civil Rights and Social Justice, often referred to as "the conscience of the ABA," Mr. Wolfson assist in formulating policies, presenting seminars and CLE activities and engaging in education on issues relevant to civil rights and social justice.

Mr. Wolfson is committed to engaging in access to justice initiatives, such as encouraging members of the bar to engage in pro bono and "low bono" representation of disadvantaged clients, exploring the possibility of "civil Gideon," and having the Court engage in activities that help residents of DC to better understand court procedures and/or the legal system.

In sum, Mr. Wolfson highly exhibits the personal and professional qualities of an Associate Judge. In addition, he has been a resident of DC for over 30 years, and his career has shown a lifelong dedication to public service and advancing the rights of marginalized communities. For all these reasons, the HBA-DC endorses Mr. Wolfson for a judicial position with the DC Court of Appeals. If we can be of further assistance in the nomination process, please let us know.

Respectfully Yours,



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