



# HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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[www.hbadc.org](http://www.hbadc.org)

March 27, 2020

*Via Electronic Mail to [dc.jnc@dc.gov](mailto:dc.jnc@dc.gov)*

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

**Re: Highest Endorsement of Tovah Calderon 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 highest endorsement to Tovah Calderon for an Associate Judge position on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. We are confident that, based on Ms. Calderon's professional qualifications, vast appellate experience, and demonstrated commitment to disenfranchised communities and the residents of the District of Columbia, she would make a significant contribution to the Court of Appeals.

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.

Ms. Calderon has had a long and distinguished career at the United States Department of Justice ("U.S. DOJ"), where she has worked to enforce federal civil rights laws in U.S. Courts of Appeals throughout the country and in the U.S. Supreme Court. She currently serves as a Deputy Chief in the Appellate Section of the U.S. DOJ's Civil Rights Division, where she has gained substantial written and oral advocacy experience in both civil and criminal appeals. During her nearly 20-year career at the U.S. DOJ, Ms. Calderon has received numerous departmental awards and recognition for her outstanding work.

Notably, throughout her career, Ms. Calderon has maintained a deep commitment to advancing diversity and inclusion at the U.S. DOJ, and in the legal profession in general. To that end, she has undertaken a number of endeavors to encourage students and attorneys of diverse backgrounds to pursue careers in public service and civil rights, including serving as a long-time advisor and mentor at her alma mater, Howard Law School, as well as reviewing applications for the Hispanic Bar Association of D.C. Foundation's public interest law fellowship program. Additionally, at the U.S. DOJ, Ms. Calderon serves on the Civil Rights Division's Diversity and Equal Opportunity Advisory Council, regularly recruits, hires, and mentors attorneys from diverse backgrounds, and has implemented several initiatives to facilitate more inclusion among staff.

Ms. Calderon has also demonstrated her dedication to serving the residents of the District of Columbia, as well as disadvantaged and marginalized communities. Prior to her time as a lawyer and public servant, Ms. Calderon volunteered with and worked at a number of non-profit organizations serving the local D.C. Hispanic and immigrant communities, including Ayuda, Inc. Moreover, she has significant experience regarding access to justice issues and has expressed an interest in continuing her involvement in initiatives that ensure a right to counsel and language access to the courts.

In sum, the HBA-DC is honored to give its highest endorsement to Tovah Calderon, an attorney of the highest caliber and with the requisite professional experience and personal qualities to be a successful Associate Judge on the D.C. 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