



# HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

April 6, 2020

*Via Electronic Mail to Sandy\_Philp@ca4.uscourts.gov*

**Attention: Sandy Philp, Executive Assistant**

James N. Ishida

Circuit Executive

Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit

1000 East Main Street

Richmond, Virginia 23219

**Re: Highest Endorsement of Carmen Banerjee for  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge for the District of Maryland**

Dear Bankruptcy Judge Merit Selection Panel:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC) is pleased to extend its highest endorsement to Carmen Banerjee for appointment as U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Maryland. We are confident that, based on Ms. Banerjee's professional qualifications, vast knowledge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court's operations, distinguished service with the HBA-DC, and demonstrated commitment to the residents of her community, she would make an outstanding bankruptcy 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.

Ms. Banerjee is exceptionally qualified. She has had a distinguished legal career, including extensive substantive bankruptcy work at the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") and in private practice. She is currently a Senior Division Counsel with Tax Division in the Civil Trial Section at the DOJ, where she has supervised and consulted on civil litigation work regarding the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and bankruptcy. Ms. Banerjee's career with the DOJ began in 2005 at the Office of the General Counsel of the Executive Office of U.S. Trustees, where her work included conducting legal research on Bankruptcy Code issues and

responded to Congressional inquiries regarding the bankruptcy system. In 2007, she transferred to DOJ's Tax Division, where her practice focused on litigating FOIA and Privacy Act cases. Ms. Banerjee has received numerous awards for her work at DOJ. Prior to joining the DOJ, Ms. Banerjee was in private practice where she represented individual debtors as well as trustees in several phases of Chapter 7, Chapter 13, and Chapter 11 cases. In addition to practicing before the in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey, she was also a law clerk there from 2000-2001. Finally, Ms. Banerjee has presented on bankruptcy and other topics throughout her career.

Ms. Banerjee also has a deep commitment to the legal community and to increasing diversity in the legal profession. In addition to volunteering for the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center Advice & Referral Clinic, she current serves as member of the D.C. Bar's Strategic Planning Committee, and was a member of the local planning committee for the Judicial Conference that organized the national symposium *Roadways to the Federal Bench: Who Me? A Bankruptcy Judge?*

We have first-hand experience of Ms. Banerjee's dedication and talents through her extensive work in HBA-DC. Ms. Banerjee has held a number of leadership positions with our bar association where she regularly exhibits her diligence, productivity, and mentorship. She is also a member and former chair of the DOJ's affinity group for Hispanic employees, the Association of Hispanics Employees for Advancement and Development (DOJ-AHEAD). Ms. Banerjee remains actively engaged in efforts to expand diversity in the legal profession.

Finally, Ms. Banerjee is dedicated to educating residents of her community about the judiciary, specifically bankruptcy court, through access to justice initiatives, such as providing information and materials on the Court's *pro se* webpage in additional languages like Spanish and Amharic, and providing a list of organizations that provide financial management education to the residents of the District of Columbia.

In sum, the HBA-DC is proud and honored to give its highest endorsement to Carmen Banerjee, an attorney of the highest caliber and with the requisite professional experience and personal qualities to be a successful bankruptcy judge. 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