



HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

www.hbadc@hbadc.org

March 17, 2009

The Honorable Greg Craig
White House Counsel
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Eric Holder
Attorney General of the United States
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Messrs. Craig and Holder:

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia enthusiastically endorses The Honorable Vanessa Ruiz of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for appointment as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The Hispanic Bar is the leading Hispanic legal organization in the Greater Washington, D.C. region, and has been representing the interests of Hispanic lawyers, judges, law students and law professors for over 30 years. We recommend Judge Ruiz, who is well-known to the Hispanic Bar, because she possesses the keen intellect, distinguished professional record, commitment to equal justice, sound judgment, temperament, and proven integrity that characterize our country's best jurists.

Judge Ruiz was appointed to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in 1994 by President William Jefferson Clinton. Her career has included positions in both public service and the private sector. For example, prior to her appointment, she had served as Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia (now Office of the Attorney General), as Senior Counsel for Sears World Trade, Inc., and as a partner in the law firm of Pepper, Hamilton & Scheetz. Judge Ruiz is a national leader and her commitment to women in the legal profession and to issues of equality and justice are evidenced in part by her extensive involvement in organizations such as the National Association of Women Judges, of which she is the immediate past president, and the International Association of Women Judges, on which she serves on the Board of Managerial Trustees.

Judge Ruiz has served with distinction for fourteen years as an appellate judge in the District of Columbia. During that time, she has authored hundreds of published opinions covering a broad range of constitutional, statutory and common law issues. She has co-chaired the Committee on Race & Ethnicity of the D.C. Circuit Task Force on Gender, Race & Ethnic Bias, and chaired the D.C. Courts' Task Force on Families and Violence.

Judge Ruiz has been a long-time friend, mentor and supporter of the Hispanic Bar. Judge Ruiz consistently serves as a mentor to Latino law students, speaks to law students about judicial clerkships, participates in programs designed to educate the Hispanic community about the judicial system, and lends her support to Hispanic Bar efforts that enhance the experience of members of the legal profession. During her tenure as a member of the DC Bar's Pro Bono Program Committee, she worked in partnership

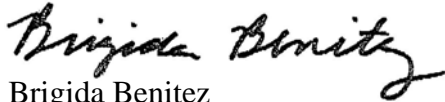
Honorable Greg Craig
Honorable Eric Holder
March 17, 2009
Page 2 of 2

with the Hispanic Bar to launch a free legal clinic providing services in Spanish to the community in the Washington, D.C. area.

Indeed, we are proud to note that the Hispanic Bar awarded Judge Ruiz its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for her principled service in the legal profession and her outstanding contributions to the Latino community in the areas of equality, fairness and social justice. Judge Ruiz has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to advancing women and minorities in the legal profession. She goes above and beyond in her efforts to encourage and mentor young Latino lawyers, many of whom are women, and has been an invaluable resource, role model and inspiration to so many of our members.

It is the Hispanic Bar's considered opinion that Judge Ruiz possesses the skills and attributes that would serve the judiciary well. We are truly honored to have the opportunity to support Judge Vanessa Ruiz for appointment to the D.C. Circuit Court and we do so with our highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brigida Benitez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brigida Benitez
Director