



de la O · Marko · Magolnick · Leyton
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Miguel M. de la O
Charles Duke Ferguson
Daniel L. Leyton
Elena M. Magolnick
Joel S. Magolnick
David Everett Marko
Farah J. Martinez

OF COUNSEL
Neal R. Sonnett

August 23, 2007

BY U.S. MAIL

Honorable Charlie Crist
Office of the Governor
The Capitol, PL05
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

**RE: Letter of Recommendation for Miguel M. de la O for Appointment
to the 11th Judicial Circuit Court in Miami-Dade County.**

Dear Governor Crist:

I am writing to recommend my law partner, Miguel de la O, for appointment to the Circuit Court in the 11th Judicial Circuit. Before I offer you my opinion of Miguel, I would like to give you some background. Miguel and I have been true friends for 28 years. We grew up together, part of that time in the same home. We attended high school, university and law school together. We served as each other's best men at our weddings. We are the Godfathers of each other's children. We have been law partners since 1994, having founded our firm together. Our families are one family together. There is no denying that I am "partisan" when it comes to Miguel, but I am also perhaps the most qualified person in the world to comment on his character. Not only do I know Miguel arguably better than anyone, but I am also the person who has the most to lose if he were to be appointed. I would lose the great joy of working with my childhood best friend and my law firm would lose our most talented litigator.

Miguel's first class legal mind and long commitment to community service are well known in South Florida. No doubt, many people will write to you and your staff about these qualities. Anecdotally, I recall one judge about 12 years ago stating in open court that Miguel was the brightest young lawyer in South Florida. However, these attributes are not his best. Miguel's best quality is his integrity. I have never known anyone with a stronger moral compass. I have also never known anyone less pretentious. Miguel combines his moral clarity with a temperament perfectly suited to

be a judge. If you appoint Miguel, I believe you will conclude, as you look back on your service as Governor in the years to come, that he was one of your best appointments.

Without reservation, I give my fullest recommendation in favor of Miguel de la O's appointment to the Circuit Court. I am delighted to address any questions you or your staff may have for me.

Very truly yours,

**DE LA O, MARKO,
MAGOLNICK & LEYTON**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Marko', written over the firm name.

David Everett Marko, Esq.
marko@dmmlaw.com

DEM:skm
Encl