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August 20, 2007

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

RE: Appointment to the Eleventh Judicial Circuit- Miguel De La O

Dear Governor Crist:

It is an honor to recommend my friend and colleague Miguel De La O, Esq. for appointment to the Circuit Court Bench for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit. I am presently the senior partner at Tucker Kotler & Associates, P.A. Our firm concentrates in the area of State and Federal criminal defense. I have been a practicing criminal defense attorney in Federal Court for over 23 years.

Miguel and I first met when he was a young associate at the law firm of Sonnett Sale & Kuehne, P.A. I was immediately impressed not only with his legal acumen, but more importantly, with his depth of character and easy going personality. We worked closely together for a number of years. We worked on the some of the most complex and publicized criminal cases in the nation. Miguel handled the pressure and work environment with ease. He excelled at winning arguments and was a true advocate for our clients.

Miguel then started his own law firm and I watched not only as Miguel's firm grew but also as he plunged himself into community service. At the time I was on the Board of Directors of the People with Aids Coalition. We needed a civil attorney to assist us in a number of endeavors, Miguel not only volunteered his time, but became an essential member and director of PWAC.

I was also a founding member of another HIV support organization called "The Advocates". This organization worked closely with the University of Miami Law School and provided advocacy for HIV infected persons who were the victims of discrimination. On those occasions when the U of M law students were unable to resolve an issue outside of the legal process, we called upon Miguel to assist. He did so and his legal work was directly responsible for assisting numerous victims of discrimination.

Miguel gave freely of his time and was *equally* involved in other charitable and community organizations including Easter Seals, Human Services Coalition, ALS Recovery Foundation and numerous others.

He has volunteered his time in public interest work including becoming a member of the Community Relations Board for the City of Miami and serving as a board member of the Miami-Dade Urban Debate League.

Miguel's involvement in the Bar is likewise impressive. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Dade County Bar Association, Chair (present) of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners and is the former Chair of the Florida Bar Grievance Committee for the Eleventh Circuit.

Miguel's legal skills are unmatched and I consider him to be one of the best appellate attorneys in the country. He has numerous well published appellate opinions.

Lastly, as a practicing trial attorney I am uniquely familiar with and appreciate those judges who have the appropriate demeanor for the bench. Miguel possesses all of the characteristics necessary to be a fair, objective and impartial judge. He calmly and clearly communicates his thoughts and will be respectful to all parties. Miguel has a tremendous reputation for intellectual honesty and will bring that to the bench.

I highly recommend Miguel De La O, Esq. for appointment to the Circuit Court for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit. The bench and the public will be well served with his selection as the next Circuit Court Judge.

I remain,

Respectfully,

TUCKER KOTLER & ASSOCIATES P.A.

DAVID K. TUCKER

DKT/cjm