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

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Miguel de la O

Dear Honorable Governor Crist:

This letter serves as a recommendation of Miguel de la O for the position of Circuit Court Judge in the Eleventh Circuit in Miami-Dade County. I am a resident of Miami-Dade County and a member in good standing with the Florida Bar. I write this letter with great pleasure in recommending a dear friend and colleague during your Honor's consideration of a candidate for the open seat in the Circuit Court.

I had the pleasure of meeting Miguel when we both worked at the law firm of Steel Hector & Davis in the early 1990's. Not only was Miguel very well liked by everyone at the Firm, but was also considered a very intelligent young man with superb legal skills and unquestionable integrity. I also worked alongside Miguel on some cases at his current Firm when I leased space from Miguel's office, and can attest that Miguel has a quality for immediately identifying complex legal issues and a strong desire for fairness and justice, characteristics which are required of a judge in any case.

On a personal note, when I first moved to Miami it was Miguel who made sure I fit in my new surroundings inviting me to football games, dinners at his family's home, and inviting me to join his Firm's softball team. Further, during Hurricane Andrew when I was traveling to California, it was Miguel who came to my assistance in making sure my vehicle and belongings were properly stored in a garage. I cannot say enough in this letter about the good person and lawyer Miguel truly is, and the highly respected judge he would be on the Circuit Court if appointed by Your Honor.

If you would like to speak to me personally about Miguel, please feel free to call me anytime. Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Montalvo