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PLEASE REPLY TO: TALLAHASSEE

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JOHN A. WEISS

August 24, 2007

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

Re: Miguel M. de la O – Nominee for Eleventh Circuit Court Judge

Dear Governor Crist:

I urge you to appoint Miguel M. de la O to the bench. As elaborated on below, my recommendation is based on my professional interaction with Mr. de la O while he was sitting in a quasi-judicial capacity on various Florida Board of Bar Examiners panels. It is my firm belief that Mr. de la O will be an excellent jurist.

My experiences with Mr. de la O have been limited to my appearances before the Florida Board of Bar Examiners in my capacity as counsel for applicants. Mr. de la O has been on at least 20 panels that my clients have appeared before. While most of the appearances have been investigative panels, there have been numerous instances when Mr. de la O has been on the panel at the applicant's subsequent administrative trial. In many cases, Mr. de la O presided over the administrative trial. It is those instances that I am primarily basing my opinion on.

I believe that superior judges are patient, courteous and knowledgeable. Mr. de la O possesses all three attributes in spades. During his questioning of my clients and, more importantly, during the formal hearings that he has chaired, I have never seen Mr. de la O evince any impatience with my client, counsel or any witnesses. He has always conducted himself as a dignified and honorable panelist.

Based on my observations of Mr. de la O while he has presided over my clients' Formal Hearings, it is clear to me that he possesses the judicial demeanor that I expect from the

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judges before whom I appear. He has controlled in a firm yet courteous manner the proceedings over which he has presided without any hint of judicial bullying. I fully expect him to run his courtroom in the same manner should he be appointed to the bench. He will certainly be a credit to the judiciary.

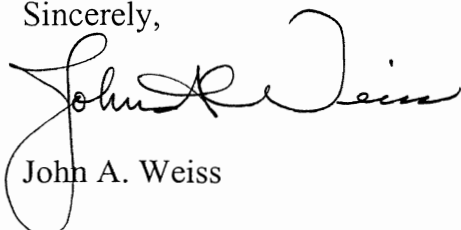
I would also add that Mr. de la O is a sharp lawyer. He has quickly grasped issues presented to him, including both complex factual issues and complex legal arguments. His rulings have been soundly based on law.

Finally, while I have not had the opportunity to socialize with Mr. de la O, we have mutual acquaintances. I can assure you that his reputation for integrity and ethics, work ethic and professionalism are superb.

During my 33 years of practice, I have tried cases before over 100 judges throughout our wonderful state. Mr. de la O will equal the best of them.

I strongly recommend Mr. de la O's appointment to Circuit Judge in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Weiss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John A. Weiss

JAW/lrb

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