

FLORIDA IMMIGRANT COALITION



**Florida
Immigrant
Coalition**

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Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center

A statewide network of organizations working together for fair treatment of immigrants in Florida

August 27, 2007

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

Dear Honorable Governor Crist:

I am writing in enthusiastic and unwavering support of Miguel de la O for appointment to the 11th Circuit Court seat.

Miguel de la O was chosen for the Inaugural Class of the Miami Fellows Initiative, a leadership development program inspired and supported by the Kellogg Foundation. This fellowship provided 2 years of intense and experiential opportunities to explore some of the most difficult and complex issues of our time both locally and abroad. Intellectually, Miguel easily competed with the best of the Yvy League lawyers in the group. Selective in his words, Miguel rapidly rose to gain the trust and respect of this very diverse group, not only for his reliably wise insights but also for his solid and widely recognized integrity. His beliefs and his actions are squarely aligned. Like you, Governor, Miguel de la O can't be pigeon holed into a perspective, and though he easily appreciates the complexity or controversy of an issue, he often helps the group find the undisputable common ground and shared values.

I have witnessed first hand Miguel de la O's sincere commitment to Florida and its diverse communities. He has given generously of his money, time and expertise to disabled children and adults, single mothers, digital divide, transportation and other access issues for the economically disadvantaged. All of this humbly and sincerely, without sacrificing his dedication to his family. His personal experiences have sensitized him to support fairness and opportunity for all.

Miguel de la O has been a faithful and accomplished Floridian who has gained the respect of diverse communities for his wisdom, fairness and integrity. His intellect and character would be a tremendous asset to the 11th Circuit court and you would do well in appointing him to such a court.

Sincerely,

**Maria Rodriguez
Executive Director**