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August 24, 2007

Honorable Charlie Crist
Office of the Governor
PL-05 The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: Nomination of Miguel M. de la O for Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit

Good Morning:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the appointment of Miguel M. de la O as circuit judge in Miami-Dade County. I know Miguel through our work together on the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, and can say without hesitation that he would be an exemplary circuit judge. I am particularly comfortable giving you this recommendation, having worked with Miguel in the quasi-judicial setting of the Board. As you may know, the Florida Board of Bar Examiners conducts investigative and formal hearings, at which board members evaluate the character and fitness of applicants to the Florida Bar. Miguel is the current chair of the Board, and I have had the pleasure of serving on panels with Miguel presiding over various proceedings. At these hearings, he displays every characteristic you would want to see in a trial judge. He maintains control over the proceedings in a way that is firm but polite, even to the most unruly pro se applicant. He is intimately familiar with the rules and case law that govern our deliberations, and helps his panel arrive at decisions that are not only legally correct, but make a great deal of common sense. Miguel achieves all of this while dealing with panels of board members who are bright and not shy about arguing their position in deliberations regarding applicants and matters of Board policy. Based on these experiences, I can tell you that Miguel would make a fine addition to the Eleventh Circuit's bench.

Beyond our formal dealings, I have had the opportunity to spend time with Miguel and meet his family in social settings, and know that the foundation for his distinguished service on the Board, as well as his other public service, lies with his family. Juggling family and work commitments is

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something we all face as professionals, and Miguel pulls it off with aplomb. Besides being there for his wife and children, Miguel has also managed to balance his board commitments with the need to be there with his mother when she was ill recently.

In sum, I can think of few applicants more suited and qualified for appointment as circuit judge than Miguel de la O. He would certainly be an all star if he practiced in my part of the state, and I expect great things from him on the bench in Miami.

Please feel free to give me a call if you would like to discuss any issues regarding Miguel's application or qualifications.

Very truly yours,

BARRON, REDDING, HUGHES, FITE,
SANBORN, KIEHN & DICKEY, P.A.



Michael P. Dickey

MPD/ch

cc: Miguel de la O