

Subject: Miguel de la O

From: "Osnat K. Rind" <orind@roncohenlaw.com>

Date: Wed, 22 Jul 2009 16:52:47 -0400

To: <arivero@rmc-attorneys.com>, <mromance@richmangreer.com>, <grd@dortalaw.com>, <pfreidin@fdlaw.net>, <manny@cc1companies.com>, <jk@kttlaw.com>, <marlene.quintana@gray-robinson.com>, <mcghee@mcgheellc.net>, <daniel.schwartz@akerman.com>

Dear Members of the 11th Circuit JNC:

It has come to my attention that you will be interviewing Miguel de la O on June 27th for for the Circuit Court opening created by Judge Wilson's retirement. I write this email in strong support of Miguel's nomination. I think I am uniquely qualified to comment on the type of judge Mr. de la O will be. I have been a member of the Fla. Bar since 1992, and I practice mainly in the area of labor and employment law. I represent a number of labor unions, including the Miami Fraternal Order of Police and AFSCME Local 1907, which represents general employees in the City of Miami. In that capacity, I represent employees before the City of Miami Civil Service Board regarding disciplinary appeals and other employment matters. Mr. de la O is the Chairman of that Board. Hearings before the Board are quasi-judicial, and are conducted in a manner similar to trials in a court of law. I appear before Mr. de la O, generally, twice a month. Although I have not always won his vote, I can state unequivocally that Mr. de la O will be a great judge. He is extremely intelligent and thoughtful in his rulings. He maintains decorum in the hearing room even during the most heated cases. He makes everyone feel that he has been heard. It has been particularly helpful to have such a highly-skilled lawyer on the Board since the other four members of the Board are not lawyers, especially because he has a great grasp of the rules of evidence and applies them appropriately and even-handedly. I can tell you that some of the Board's decisions have been appealed to the Circuit Court, Appellant Division, and in all of those cases that I am aware of, the Board's decisions have been upheld.

Unlike other applicants for this judicial position, Mr. de la O has actually had the experience of working as a quasi-judicial officer, which gives us a window into the kind of judge he will be. The fact that he is respected by both labor and management, as well as the lawyers and employees who appear before him, is a tribute to his judicial temperment and abilities, and the fair, just, and balanced nature of his rulings.

I am happy to discuss my experiences appearing before Mr. de la O with any member. If I can answer any questions you may have about his qualifications please feel free to call me.

Osnat K. Rind, Esq.
Cohen & Rind, P.A.
Andrew Jackson Building
8100 Oak Lane, Suite 403
Miami Lakes, Florida 33016
Phone: (305) 823-1212
Facsimile: (305) 823-7778
Email: orind@roncohenlaw.com