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VIA. U.S. MAIL

Mark A. Romance, Chair
Eleventh Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission
c/o Richman Greer, P.A.
201 S. Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 1000
Miami, Florida 33131

Re: JNC applicant Miguel de la O

Dear Mr. Romance:

I suspect that it is unusual for one applicant to recommend another applicant to the JNC. But circumstances compel me to do so, and to say a few words to the Commission on behalf of Miguel de la O.

Until we began to share space on the campaign trail last year, I knew Miguel only by reputation. I soon learned that every good thing I had heard about him was true. In a milieu where self-interest is the order of the day, and where many view every interaction as some variety of a zero-sum game, Miguel stood out as a man of generous spirit and grace. I have never heard him utter a word about anyone – even those who opposed or criticized him – that was not designed to build others up.

In short, Miguel is a gentleman of the old school.

I have been fortunate to work with Miguel in his professional capacity as well, having engaged him as a mediator in a contentious and high-stakes case. His work in that role manifested his considered judgment, attention to detail, and legal acumen – to the great benefit of the parties concerned.


Recently, after more than a year of campaigning – a process that demands a cost in time, trouble and treasure those who have not experienced it can hardly imagine – Miguel learned at the last minute that the seat he sought would be in the hands of the JNC, rather than the voters. As was no surprise to those of us privileged to know him, Miguel's impeccable character shone through. In defiance of what must have been a chorus of voices pressing him to take on a qualified, but politically vulnerable incumbent; despite the fact that, had he done so, he almost certainly would have won; in abnegation of the simplistic, self-aggrandizing way in which most candidates would measure victory, Miguel stayed true to his principles. At great cost to his own

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ambitions, to the great benefit of our too-often divided community, Miguel instead placed himself before this Commission.

Because of what he can do, because of what he has done, but mostly because of who he has shown himself to be, I urge the Commission to honor Miguel de la O's principled choice by submitting his name to the Governor for consideration and appointment to the Circuit Court bench.

Very truly yours,



Robert J. Kuntz, Jr., Esq.

RJK:vc