

## **Russell S. Jacobs**

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September 17, 2007

### **VIA FACSIMILE**

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

RE: Recommendation for Miguel de la O for the vacant seat in the Circuit Court for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida

Dear Governor Crist:

It is my honor to recommend Miguel de la O for judge in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida without reservation. I have had the pleasure to know Miguel personally and professionally for the last nine years and you will find no candidate better suited for the judiciary than Miguel.

On a personal level, Miguel is warm, charismatic, and one of the brightest persons I have ever had the opportunity to engage. I had the good fortune to meet Miguel as part of the inaugural class of the Miami Fellows, a unique leadership program designed to identify emerging leaders and address issues affecting the community. Selected as one of eighteen fellows from among numerous applicants to participate in the program, Miguel quickly assumed a leadership role. Miguel's keen intellect and fair minded contributions to the discourse easily won our respect, a true leader among leaders. His leadership extends beyond words; Miguel leads by example.

Miguel's service to his community include numerous charitable causes, but a few stand out as particularly unique and evidence Miguel's desire to take community involvement to a new and imaginative level. For example, rather than charge potential clients a consultation fee to review their case as many lawyers do, Miguel has a standard policy not to accept consultation fees, but instead requests the potential client write a check to charity, usually to the American Heart Association, Easter Seals, or similar charity as the potential client may prefer. Several lawyers have taken Miguel's lead and adopted the program and, as a result, have raised thousands of additional dollars for worthwhile causes.

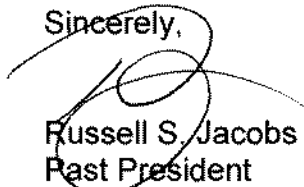
When Miguel commits to a cause, an event, or a professional obligation, he commits with his full heart and soul. His involvement with the Human Services Coalition, as one such example among many, extends beyond financial contributions.

Miguel adopted the organization, served on its board, provided it continuous counsel, and, under Miguel's direction, his firm donated computers to provide underserved children access to technology and the world of the internet.

Miguel's commitment to excellence naturally extends to all areas of Miguel's life and his professional life is no exception. Particularly impressive is the recognition Miguel receives not just from his colleagues and friends, but from his adversaries as well. Martindale Hubbell, well regarded by litigants and lawyers alike, awarded its highest rating to Miguel, the highly coveted "AV" rating. This rating is only available to lawyers after their adversaries in recently litigated cases have been interviewed and agree that the recipient is both among the best lawyers in their field and exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism and integrity. Martindale surveys members of the judiciary for this rating as well. That Miguel has the support of adversaries and the judiciary speaks volumes about his respect for the rule of law and the respect his adversaries have for his legal skills. I owe much of my growth and development as a lawyer to Miguel and his mentorship, as do many other lawyers.

In short, Miguel serves as the finest example of integrity and professionalism, proven by his record of extraordinary accomplishments personally, on behalf of the community, and in service to the practice of law. He will make an outstanding member of the judiciary. If I can answer any questions or provide anything further in support of Miguel's nomination, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell S. Jacobs", written over the typed name.

Russell S. Jacobs  
Past President  
Dade County Bar Association YLS