

ATLANTA  
MIAMI  
ORLANDO  
ST. PETERSBURG  
TALLAHASSEE  
TAMPA  
WEST PALM BEACH

# CARLTON FIELDS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

215 S. Monroe Street, Suite 500  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1866  
P.O. Drawer 190  
Tallahassee, Florida 32302-0190

R. Terry Rigsby  
850.513.3601 direct  
trigsby@carltonfields.com

850.224.1585  
850.222.0398 fax  
www.carltonfields.com

August 21, 2007

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

Re: Nominations to 11th Judicial Circuit

Dear Governor Crist:

I am writing in my individual capacity to whole-heartedly recommend Miguel de la O for the 11<sup>th</sup> judicial circuit vacancy. As a long-standing member of The Florida Bar and immediate past chair of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners, I have a deep and abiding respect for our judicial system and the critical importance of ensuring that only the most qualified persons serve on the bench.

I first met Miguel five years ago when he was appointed to the Board of Bar Examiners by the Supreme Court. Since that time, I have had the privilege of working closely with him as a member of the Board, as the board's vice-chair during my term as chair, and as the Board's current chair. In each of these roles Miguel has done a truly outstanding job. Board membership is a voluntary position requiring a minimum commitment of several hundred hours annually. During each of the years one serves as vice-chair and then chair, that volunteer effort typically exceeds 400 hours, a significant public service.

Miguel has consistently displayed a fair and even-handed approach to the wide variety of issues that come before the board. He displays empathy and understanding of applicants' situations, while at the same time recognizing the need to adhere to the law and the rules that guide our profession. Miguel is also well respected by his peers. He has the judicial temperament and intellect to handle the most difficult cases. His considerable litigation experience will hold him in good

The Honorable Charlie Crist

August 21, 2007

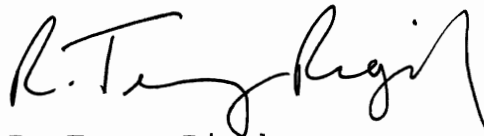
Page 2

stead to assume this challenging position.

I cannot begin to imagine the demands and decisions you are called upon to make each and every day as Governor. Yours is obviously not an easy job. In this case, however, your task is made easier by having Miguel de la O's name on your short list. While I do not personally know the other five candidates for this position, I do know Miguel and I can vouch that he is imminently qualified to be the next circuit judge for the 11<sup>th</sup> judicial circuit.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation and for the great job you are doing for all Floridians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Terry Rigsby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

R. Terry Rigsby