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September 7, 2007

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

Dear Governor Crist:

My name is Tom Poulton and I am an attorney in the Orlando area. The purpose of this letter is to support the nomination of Miguel M. de la O to the circuit court bench in Miami-Dade County.

Miguel's accomplishments, especially coming from such a humble beginning, speak for themselves. His service to the community and to the Bar are indicative of his intelligence and his character. His integrity and honesty are beyond reproach and those that deal with him come to understand and to appreciate his candor and his commitment to the legal profession.

I write to you not just as Miguel's colleague in the Bar, but as his good friend. I've known Miguel for 25 years, since we were competitors at rival high schools in speech and debate contests in the early 1980's, and then again in college when I went to the University of Florida and Miguel went to Florida State. We continued to compete against one another, but we were also very good friends. We've been in touch over the years and try to visit at least once a year. In all my years of knowing

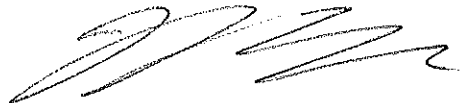
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Miguel I have never once heard a bad thing said about him. Not once. He is universally well-respected and would make an excellent member of the judiciary.

Miguel is, without question, one of the sharpest, most sincere, and caring individuals I have ever met. His mind is piercing and he has that rare ability to balance process and outcome. He understands better than most others what drives the law, the place of the law and the courts in our society, and the balance that must be struck between the system as a whole and the individual. He's done it all, from the small firm to the large, from criminal to civil, from federal to state, and from trial to appeal. I cannot imagine anyone more well-rounded than Miguel for the position of circuit court judge.

Governor Crist, I am sure that the other nominees before you are also good people and well-qualified. But I sincerely doubt that any of them could be as fine a judge as Miguel M. de la O. Thank you for your time and consideration and please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas W. Poulton', with a stylized, flowing script.

Thomas W. Poulton

TWP/il