



CHBA
COLORADO HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION
1550 Larimer Street, #636
Denver, CO 80202

June 9, 2008

Via Hand Delivery

Honorable Bill Ritter, Jr.
136 State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203

Re: Endorsement of Christopher Cross for 18th Judicial District – Arapahoe District Court

Dear Governor Ritter:

On behalf of the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association (“CHBA”) membership, I write to endorse Christopher Cross for the existing vacancy in the Eighteenth Judicial District. Prior to endorsement, we conducted extensive due diligence by reviewing the candidate’s judicial application, contacting and interviewing references and individuals referenced in question 19 of the candidate’s judicial application, interviewing CHBA members who know the work of the judicial candidate and requesting feedback from the candidate with respect to their work and commitment to the Hispanic community. Our due diligence confirmed that his leadership, credentials, experience and advocacy on behalf of the Hispanic community and other minority communities in Colorado compel our endorsement.

Judge Cross served as a Deputy District Attorney in the Denver District Attorney’s Office from 1979-1983, followed by 14 years of private practice. As Deputy District Attorney Cross, he earned a reputation as a deeply ethical, hard working and socially conscious district attorney. Mr. Cross refined his trial litigation skills under the mentoring of, among others, William Lucero, who began his work with Mr. Cross as an inexperienced but very bright prosecutor, and saw him develop into a highly skilled trial lawyer. For his talent, Mr. Cross was named “Best of Denver in Front of a Jury” in 1990 and 1993, as well as numerous awards and honors. Within the District Attorney’s Office and in private practice, Mr. Cross became known as a very intelligent attorney who, in exercising his discretion, did so humanely and ethically.

It was this reputation that generated support among Mr. Cross' colleagues, for his election as Presidency of the Arapahoe County Bar Association. Diversity and civil rights issues have been focal points in Mr. Cross' life that he incorporated into his bar work. During his tenure as President, Mr. Cross recognized the inequalities facing lawyers of color and advocated for their full integration into the legal profession and to increase the number of lawyers. Indeed, the primary plank on his agenda involved diversity issues. President Cross pushed through the board a Diversity Resolution which was one of the first (if not the first) of its kind to be passed by a local bar association. The keynote program at the ACBA's spring CLE in Santa Fe, which he put together, was a diversity training program. President Cross helped establish a scholarship at the University of Denver Law School for disadvantaged students.

President Cross was especially supportive of the work and goals of the bar's Minority/Diversity Committee. At this time, in a highly homogeneous environment, it was indeed rare to have an effective advocate, such as President Cross, at this highest level of bar association work. President Cross educated his colleagues on the importance of these issues, as exemplified by the ACBA program on diversity training. CHBA members also expressed their belief that Judge Cross will continue advocating for equality as a member of the Eighteenth Judicial District, one of the CHBA's highest goals.

In August 1997, Judge Cross was appointed to the Arapahoe County Bench. Judge Cross has yet again distinguished himself as a leader and hard worker on the Arapahoe County Bench, referred to as that court's "intellectual." He is competent, well-prepared, hard-working and ethical. Judge Cross is known as exceedingly well-versed in Colorado law, no doubt, in part from the many research projects he has undertaken on behalf of the county court bench. In addition to his legal research, Judge Cross has volunteered to take felony dockets (this court permits county court judges to try felony cases) and has been the judge on a number of felony cases. Judge Cross was consistently described as having "great judicial temperament." With his prosecutorial record, civil litigation experience and actual experience as a district court judge, Judge Cross is more than ready and capable to effortlessly assume the Arapahoe County District Court bench. Those interviewed enthusiastically expressed that Judge Cross would "make an excellent addition to the 18th judicial district."

Through our due diligence, we have discovered that Judge Cross is "fair-minded" and passionate about equality for all. He has consistently and positively represented members of the Hispanic community in private practice. As a judge, he has taken great strides to treat all of those before him without mention to race, ethnicity, gender or national origin. Among our CHBA members, Judge Cross was identified as a person who has spent a lifetime working to help with the injustices in the legal profession. Overall, Judge Cross is an asset to the bench, bar and diverse communities in Colorado because he is fair, has great character and remarkable integrity.

The Honorable Bill Ritter, Jr.

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It is without reservation that we endorse Judge Cross and respectfully request that you appoint him to the Eighteenth Judicial District Court. Should you have any further questions, please contact me at (303) 290-1605. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jose A Ramirez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

José A. Ramirez

President, Colorado Hispanic Bar Association

cc: Trey Rogers
Honorable Chris Cross