



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

November 14, 2008

Via Hand Delivery

Mayor John W. Hickenlooper
City and County Building
1437 Bannock Street, Room 350
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Endorsement of Kerry S. Hada for the Denver County Court

Dear Mayor Hickenlooper:

It is with the support of the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association (“CHBA”) that I write to endorse Kerry S. Hada for the Denver County Court. The CHBA has dedicated itself to serving the public interest by promoting legal reform, facilitating the administration of justice, and advancing the interests of the more than 500 Hispanic attorneys in Colorado. Our due diligence process before endorsing a candidate for the bench involves review of the candidate’s judicial application by members of the CHBA’s Nominations and Endorsements Committee; contacting and interviewing the references identified in the candidate’s judicial application; identifying, and contacting and interviewing CHBA members who know the work of the judicial candidate. Based upon this due diligence, we are pleased to endorse Mr. Hada.

Mr. Hada, a respected trial attorney of humble roots, grew up as a farm worker in southern Colorado, picking produce throughout the Arkansas and San Luis Valleys. After making his way to the Denver metro area, he graduated from Wheat Ridge High School and attending the University of Colorado at Boulder through an Army ROTC program. Following a ten-year career in the business sector, Mr. Hada attended law school at the University of Denver and subsequently built an extensive career in both civil and criminal litigation.

Since becoming a lawyer, Mr. Hada has championed the causes of the underrepresented. In perhaps one of his most impressive and important achievements, he helped found the Colorado chapter of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association (APABA). He has long promoted *pro bono* legal services, whether as a charter member of the Criminal Justice Act Panel or as a private attorney for which he was recognized by the Colorado Supreme Court. In addition to providing and advocating for *pro bono* legal services, Mr. Hada has also been recognized for his numerous community service activities for which he received the prestigious APABA Minoru Yasui Community Service Award.

His peers strongly support Mr. Hada's appointment to the Denver County Court. Opposing counsel in Mr. Hada's cases have praised his "well-tempered" and "professional manner," as well as his extensive knowledge and familiarity with trial practice and procedure. Mr. Hada was also commended for his compassion and empathy for litigants, defendants, and victims alike. Mr. Hada's even-handed temperament coupled with his outstanding litigation skills – as demonstrated by his longtime faculty appointment to the National Institute for Trial Advocacy – will be a great asset to the Court.

The membership of CHBA resoundingly supports Mr. Hada, and the CHBA enthusiastically endorses him for the Denver County Court.

I add a final note about our endorsement process. It is our general policy to endorse only one candidate, at most, for a judicial position. In this case, however, we have made an exception because we believe that two candidates for the Denver County Court are extremely well-qualified and deserve appointment. For the reasons given in a separate letter, the CHBA also endorses Mr. Michael Vallejos. The Denver County Court, and indeed Denver itself, are fortunate to have two worthy candidates for this position.

Please contact me at 303-290-1600 should you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



José A. Ramirez
President, Colorado Hispanic Bar Association

cc: Kelly Brough
Kerry S. Hada