



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

April 14, 2009

*Via e-mail to alan\_salazar@markudall.senate.gov*

Honorable Mark Udall  
C/O Alan Salazar  
United States Senator  
8601 Turnpike Drive, #206  
Westminster, CO 80031

*Via e-mail to jonathan\_tesky@bennet.senate.gov*

Honorable Michael Bennet  
C/O Jonathan Tesky  
United States Senator  
2300 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 450  
Denver, CO 80202

***Re: Endorsement of Bill Martinez for the United States District Court for the District of Colorado***

Dear Senators Udall and Bennet:

It is with the full support of the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association (“CHBA”) that I write to endorse Bill Martinez for one of the two existing vacancies on the United States District Court for the District of Colorado. As you may know, the CHBA represents the interests of the more than 500 Hispanic lawyers in the state and the Hispanic community. Our due diligence process before endorsing a candidate for the bench involves reviewing 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, contacting and interviewing CHBA members who know the work of the judicial candidate; and, often, conducting a personal interview of the candidate.

Our due diligence revealed that Mr. Martinez uniformly is regarded as an extremely well-qualified candidate for this post. Mr. Martinez is an accomplished trial attorney. Though his focus has been in employment law representing both employers and employees, he has practiced in a wide range of civil areas. That breadth of experience will be a tremendous asset for the U.S. District Court, which carries a large civil docket and a significant number of employment cases. Along these same lines, the CHBA believes that his experience as a AAA arbitrator in employment disputes will serve the U.S. District Court very well.

According to co-counsel and opposing counsel alike, Mr. Martinez has strong analytical and writing skills, has been a tremendous advocate for his clients, is professional and courteous with all, is extremely hard-working, and has a very practical approach to practicing law. All also expressed the belief that Mr. Martinez will have an excellent judicial temperament and demeanor. Mr. Martinez is viewed to be fair and reasonable, and a person who will be respectful of all litigants and their counsel.

Since his days at the University of Chicago Law School, Mr. Martinez has emerged as a leader in the Denver legal community. From his time at the respected firm of Pendleton & Sabian, to his tenure as EEOC Regional Attorney, and his present role as a partner in the highly-regarded firm of McNamara & Martinez, Mr. Martinez has demonstrated the ability to master an array of complex legal issues and achieve outstanding results for his clients. He has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Denver College of Law, and has mentored students and attorneys throughout his career. His public service also includes appointment to the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, an appointment by the Colorado Supreme Court, and membership on the U.S. District Court's Committee on Conduct.

We are confident that he will bring all of the above capabilities and commitment to the U.S. District Court bench. His recent introduction as a Fellow into the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers in Washington, D.C. is a tribute to those qualities.

Finally, Mr. Martinez has practiced a significant amount in the U.S. District Court. He has a strong command of the Court's procedures and practice standards, as well as the Federal Rules of Evidence. This background, coupled with Mr. Martinez' outstanding demeanor and temperament, make him uniquely qualified to become a U.S. District Court judge.

For all these reasons, we strongly endorse Bill Martinez for appointment to the U.S. District Court. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meschach Rhoades", written in a cursive style.

Meschach Rhoades  
President, Colorado Hispanic Bar Association

cc: Bill Martinez