



December 31, 2009

Via E-mail

Honorable Michael Bennet
C/O Jonathan Tesky (**Via E-mail:** jonathan_tesky@bennet.senate.gov)
United States Senator
2300 15th St, Suite 450
Denver, CO 80202

Honorable Mark Udall
C/O Alan Salazar (**Via E-mail:** alan_salazar@markudall.senate.gov)
United States Senator
8601 Turnpike Drive #206
Westminster, CO 80031

Re: Endorsement of John F. Walsh for the United States District Court and the United States Attorney Vacancies for the District of Colorado

Dear Senators Salazar and Udall:

As you know, earlier this year the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association (“CHBA”) endorsed Bill Martinez for the United States District Court Bench and Stephanie Villafuerte for the United States Attorney vacancy for the District of Colorado. The CHBA stands behind its prior endorsements, and fully supports Mr. Martinez’s candidacy for the District Court bench. We are also disheartened by Ms. Villafuerte’s decision to withdraw her name from consideration for the U.S. Attorney vacancy, particularly because she was a diverse candidate. However, given John Walsh’s unique qualifications, it is with the full support of the CHBA that I write to also endorse John Walsh for both positions.


The CHBA’s Nominations and Endorsements Committee’s due diligence process involves reviewing the materials submitted by the candidate; contacting and interviewing the references identified in those materials; and identifying, contacting and interviewing CHBA members who know the candidate’s work and qualifications. After conducting interviews of several of the many references provided by Mr. Walsh and reviewing recommendations made by members of our bar association, we wholeheartedly support his candidacy.

From his eight years experience in the California U.S. Attorney's Office (including serving as Major Frauds Section Chief) through the now nearly fifteen years of experience in private practice in Colorado, Mr. Walsh has developed extensive federal litigation experience, including federal criminal prosecution and defense work, complex civil litigation, and cases in the antitrust, securities and environmental fields. Mr. Walsh has also developed regulatory expertise in both state and federal courts and has a substantial internal investigation practice, often handling international cases involving the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. He is particularly well suited for both positions because of his breadth of experience in the federal system.

Beyond his professional experience, Mr. Walsh maintains a high level of community involvement and takes on significant pro bono legal work. He has also been a friend to the CHBA and active in Colorado's Hispanic community. For example, he serves on the Colorado Bar Associations' Spanish Language Lawyering Committee, engaging in efforts to increase Spanish-speakers' access to Colorado's courts, and has served as a mentor to Spanish-speaking youth at Manual High School. Moreover, he has served as a mentor to CHBA members in their own careers.

Through our extensive due diligence process, Mr. Walsh's colleagues routinely described him as a bright, ethical person of great integrity and character. The CHBA, therefore, respectfully endorses Mr. Walsh for both the Federal District Court and U.S. Attorney vacancies. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 303-383-6644. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meshach Y. Rhoades". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Meshach Y. Rhoades
President, Colorado Hispanic Bar Association

cc: John F. Walsh