



July 28, 2010

**Via Email**

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

***Re: Endorsement of Shannon D. Lyons for the 19th Judicial District Court***

Dear Governor Ritter:

It is with the full support of the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association (“CHBA”) that I write to endorse Shannon D. Lyons for the 19th Judicial District Court.

As you know, our Nominations and Endorsements Committee conducts extensive due diligence on judicial candidates that includes interviews of the candidate’s references, consultations with CHBA members who know the candidate and his or her work, and interviews of judges, opposing counsel and co-counsel identified in the candidate’s judicial application. Based on our investigation, we are pleased to endorse Mr. Lyons for the 19th Judicial District Court bench.

Judges and counsel alike were complimentary of Mr. Lyons’s abilities as a trial attorney, both in terms of his legal skill and professionalism. He is known as a formidable adversary in the court room and a dogged representative of his clients, but he is still seen as generally having a patient and calm demeanor. Those interviewed believe that he would be fair and respectful of counsel and parties who appear before him. He has a great facility for working with people, often successfully handling difficult court-appointed matters where other attorneys could not.

Mr. Lyons practices principally in the area of criminal defense, having served initially as a public defender, then as private counsel. In his private practice, he is often appointed as alternate defense counsel throughout the district. He has a wealth of experience and knowledge handling high-level and high-profile criminal matters, and is regarded by judges and colleagues alike as being at the top of his field. Despite the focus of his practice, those interviewed strongly believed that Mr. Lyons has the dedication and intellect to quickly learn other areas of law. In fact, Mr. Lyons has already sought the counsel and advice of other practitioners to begin to familiarize himself with relevant areas of law, including domestic relations and other civil matters.

Notably, Mr. Lyons is highly-regarded by Latino leaders in Weld County. Although not a Latino himself, he has embraced the culture and is involved in the Latino community. Beyond representing diverse clients, Mr. Lyons embraces the rich diversity of the Mexican family he has married into and has become immersed in its culture, morals and beliefs.

For all the foregoing reasons, we endorse Mr. Lyons's nomination and respectfully request that you appoint him to the 19th Judicial District Court. Please feel free to contact me at 303-892-7411 if I may answer any questions you have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Damian J. Arguello". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke.

Damian J. Arguello  
President, Colorado Hispanic Bar Association

cc: Shannon D. Lyons