



BENNY AGOSTO, JR.
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

April 13, 2012

Via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Hispanic National Bar Association Endorsement of William Kayatta for the
United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit**

Senator Leahy:

On behalf of the Hispanic National Bar Association (“HNBA”), I write to encourage the confirmation of William Kayatta to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. As you know, the HNBA is a non-profit, non-partisan national membership organization that represents the interests of more than 100,000 Hispanic attorneys, judges, law professors, law students and paralegals in the United States and its territories.

As required by its *Policies and Procedures Governing Endorsements*, the HNBA has conducted appropriate due diligence and has found William Kayatta to be a highly qualified candidate for the First Circuit Court of Appeals. We find that Mr. Kayatta has a combination of professional experience and a high level of respect amongst his peers and within the legal community.

Mr. Kayatta graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 1979, serving as an officer of the Harvard Law Review. He then began his legal career as a clerk to Chief Judge Frank M. Coffin of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. He then entered private practice in September 1980 at Pierce Atwood LLP in Portland, Maine. He has remained there to the present day, having become a Partner in 1986. He has worked on trial and appellate matters, including arguing 37 appeals, two of which were before the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Kayatta has devoted significant time to pro bono work throughout his career. He served as Lead Counsel for over 4 years in the *Risinger v. Maine Department of Human Services*, which was described as an exemplary and significant victory for disabled children in Maine. He also served on several boards and foundations concerning other legal aid efforts over the years. In addition, in 2010, the Maine Bar Foundation recognized him for his efforts in providing over 30 years of pro bono work.

Last year, Mr. Kayatta was appointed by the United States Supreme Court to serve as a Special Master in *Kansas v. Nebraska and Colorado*, S.C. Original Action No. 126, a dispute between several states concerning their respective water rights in the Republican River Basin. A managing partner at Pierce Atwood stated that, "Bill Kayatta's appointment as Special Master is a testament to his exceptional legal expertise and reputation as a nationally respected trial and appellate lawyer."

When we reviewed his candidacy, we confirmed that William Kayatta is well-suited for the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Each reference stated that his professional demeanor, reputation, character and integrity were of the highest caliber. He has been described as a highly skilled lawyer with keen instincts, and that he would fit in the late Chief Judge Coffin's mold. He has also been described as being very respectful and a thoroughly decent man with an amazing intellect and a strong civic-mindedness.

Accordingly, the HNBA highly recommends William Kayatta's confirmation to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. We stand ready to assist in your deliberations should there be any questions. Please feel free to contact me through our national office at (202) 223-4777 or directly at (713) 222-7211. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Benny Agosto Jr.
HNBA National President

cc: Mr. Peter M. Reyes, Jr., HNBA President-Elect
Mr. Robert Raben, Chair, Chair, HNBA Committee on Judicial Endorsements
Mr. Rene Ortega, HNBA Region I President