



March 9, 2010

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeffrey Sessions
Ranking Minority Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: *Support for the Nomination of William J. Martínez to the United States District Court
for the District of Colorado*

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Sessions:

We write on behalf of the National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA) and our Colorado affiliate (Colorado PELA) to urge that the Senate Judiciary Committee favorably recommend the appointment of William (Bill) J. Martínez to the United States District Court for the District of Colorado. NELA advances employee rights and serves lawyers who advocate for equality and justice in the American workplace. It is the country's largest professional organization that is comprised exclusively of lawyers who represent employees in employment discrimination and other employment-related matters. NELA and its 68 state and local affiliates have more than 3,000 members around the country. Colorado PELA is a non-profit organization that was created to promote and increase public awareness of the rights of individual employees and to provide educational opportunities, information and assistance to attorneys who represent employees.

Bill Martínez was born in México and immigrated with his family to the U.S. as a young boy. He was the first member of his family to go to college. For most of his 29 years in legal practice, Mr. Martínez has specialized in employment and civil rights law. He is currently in private practice and is a founding partner of his firm, McNamara, Roseman, Martínez & Kazmierski, LLP, a well-respected employment and civil rights law firm in Denver, CO. Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Martínez served as Regional Attorney for the Denver District Office of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, where he had overall responsibility for the Commission's legal operations and federal court enforcement litigation covering a six-state jurisdiction. Significantly, while at the EEOC, he was in charge of one of the largest age discrimination class actions the federal government has ever litigated.

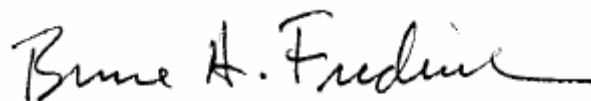
Mr. Martínez began his legal career with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago. Prior to the EEOC, he was with the firm now known as Pendleton, Friedberg, Wilson & Hennessey in Denver, CO. There, he litigated employment, securities, and commercial law cases on behalf of corporate and individual clients. Mr. Martínez's varied legal experience has strengthened his ability to negotiate and communicate well with opposing counsel and attorneys practicing in all areas of the law.

Because of his extensive experience, Mr. Martínez has been invited to serve on numerous organizations and boards, and currently holds several leadership positions. He presently serves on the Committee on Conduct of the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, having been appointed to that position by the court's Article III judges. He is the Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Faculty of Federal Advocates and Chair of the Ethics Committee for the Board of Directors of the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association. Mr. Martínez has also served on numerous Hearing Boards within the Office of the Presiding Disciplinary Judge, having been appointed to that attorney regulation panel by the Colorado Supreme Court. He is also a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers and serves as an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association.

Mr. Martínez has published several articles about employment law, including in such publications as *The Colorado Lawyer*, *The Employee Advocate*, *Journal of the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers*, *Trial* and *Trial Talk*. He has been called on to testify on employment law matters before the Colorado and Illinois legislatures and has been very involved in helping to shape and formulate policy in the employment law field in Colorado. Mr. Martínez previously taught employment law as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Denver College of Law, and continues to lecture to Bar and employer groups on employment law topics. He has mentored many new lawyers throughout his almost 30-year legal career.

Mr. Martínez is very well-respected by both plaintiff and defense attorneys of the employment bar. Indeed, he has a stellar reputation for his temperament and ability to work professionally with opposing counsel. Based on his legal expertise and experience, he has been a valuable asset to the employment bar in Colorado, and would be an equally valuable asset to the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado.

Very truly yours,



Bruce A. Fredrickson
President, NELA



Sara J. Rich
President, Colorado PELA