

DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATIONS
Business Services and Consumer and Investor Protection



Preston DuFauchard
California Corporations Commissioner
San Francisco, California

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FILE NO: _____

April 10, 2010

Applicant Review Panel
For Citizens Redistricting Commission
Bureau of State Audits
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Maria Blanco (ID # 08543)

Dear Panel Members:

By this letter of recommendation, I ask you to endorse the candidacy of Maria Blanco to serve as a member of the FIRST Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission). Maria and I were classmates in law school. I have interacted with Maria in various capacities during and after law school, and am proud to call her a friend. Maria's strengths constitute essential qualities for members of the new Commission. Those strengths include her clarity of thought, sensitivity to diversity, and above all fair-minded engagement.

From the first year in law school, I witnessed Maria's intellect and analytical abilities. She worked with another classmate during the moot court process to write a superior brief, and place first in the moot court argument. The success of this effort stands out because it required a demonstration of teamwork under pressure. Maria showed skill, poise, and team commitment.

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Since law school, Maria has represented clients in civil rights cases that required the same type of team commitment. In addition, however, those cases required Maria to demonstrate an intellectual creativity and imagination due to an increasingly difficult legal environment for civil rights plaintiffs. Again, Maria handled these cases successfully by developing sound strategy and execution.

Maria's work has gained her respect in various legal communities. Not only does she garner praise in the community of Latino lawyers and advocates, but in other communities of color as well. These qualities, again, are consistent with my experience with Maria since law school, in the early 1980's, when Maria was at home with the African-American law students as well as with the Asian / Pacific Islander community, and other law students.

Part of the reason Maria engages several communities with such ease stems from her sensitivity. But her engagement reflects, above all, her fair-minded approach in dealing with people. She does not have a reductive perspective, which is to say that because someone is from one ethnic background they think in a particular fashion. Instead, the hallmark of her ability to engage with others is her ability to listen to others, and to respect their perspective while offering her own. She does that with empathy and sincerity.

It is for these reasons that Maria is a terrific candidate for the new Citizens Redistricting Commission. I urge you to support her candidacy.

Yours truly,



Preston DuFauchard