

COLORADO'S SPECIALTY BAR ASSOCIATIONS
c/o CHBA - 1550 Larimer Street, Box 636, Denver, CO 80202

February 11, 2008

Supreme Court Nominating Commission
Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey, Ex Officio Chair
Colorado State Judicial Building
2 East 14th Avenue, 4th Floor
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Members of the Supreme Court Nominating Commission:

On behalf of Colorado's specialty bar associations, we write to urge the Commission to carefully consider diverse candidates to fill the several anticipated vacancies on the Colorado Court of Appeals.

Unquestionably, the State's judiciary has become increasingly diverse in recent years. However, the makeup of the Court of Appeals bench currently fails to reflect Colorado's diverse citizenry.

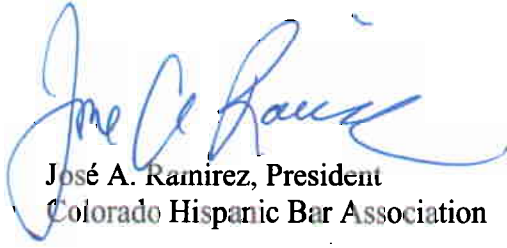
According to 2006 U.S. Census data, an estimated 20% of Colorado's population is of Latino or Hispanic origin, 5% is African American, 3% is Asian American, and 2% is Native American. According to the American Community Survey of 2005, an estimated 5% of Colorado's adults are gay, lesbian or bisexual. Women comprise nearly 50% of the State's population. In stark contrast, only two Latinos and four women sit on the 19-member Court of Appeals. With Judge Marquez' upcoming retirement, only one Latino will remain. In addition, no African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans or openly gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered judges sit on the Court.

To better serve the State's diverse population, it is imperative that the State's judiciary, at all levels, reflect the communities it serves. We recognize that it is incumbent on our associations to work in partnership with the Commission to encourage our members to participate in the nomination process, and we will continue to do so. In addition, we urge the Commission to carefully consider diverse candidates to fill current and future vacancies on the Court of Appeals.


Respectfully,

Nina Y. Wang, President-Elect
Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Alyssa K. Yatsko, President
Colorado GLBT Bar Association




José A. Ramirez, President
Colorado Hispanic Bar Association



Jennifer Weddle, Treasurer
Colorado Indian Bar Association



Theresa A. Spahn, President
Colorado Woman's Bar Association



Musu V. Brooks, President
Sam Cary Bar Association

cc: **Governor Bill Ritter, Jr.**
Trey Rogers, Chief Legal Counsel to the Governor