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December 29, 2009

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**Re: "Diversity on the Bench: Is the 'Wise Latina' a Myth?"
ABA 2009 Midyear Meeting – Orlando
Saturday, February 6, 2010 – 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Dear George:

On behalf of the National Conference of Federal Trial Judges ("NCFTJ") (part of the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association), many, many thanks to the Inter-American Bar Association for its very generous contribution of \$500.00 to help ensure the success of "Diversity on the Bench: Is the 'Wise Latina' a Myth?" – a free CLE program to be presented from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 6, 2010, at Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort, at the ABA's 2010 Midyear Meeting.

The NCFTJ's Conference Manager, Amanda Raible of the ABA Judicial Division staff, will be contacting you next week to make arrangements for payment of the IABA's contribution. In addition, Amanda will be forwarding to you a special flier highlighting the IABA's leadership in the presentation of the program, for your use in publicizing the event. We will greatly appreciate your assistance in disseminating the flier to the IABA's membership as widely as possible, through the IABA's list serve, the website, and all other available means.

As the flier indicates, the response to "Diversity on the Bench" has been – quite frankly – unprecedented. The program has garnered some 60 co-sponsors to date, a tribute to the timeliness and significance of the topic, as well as the extraordinary caliber of the panel. We are delighted that Dahlia Lithwick – Senior Editor of *Slate* magazine, and Contributing Editor of *Newsweek* – has agreed to serve as Moderator. Anchoring the panel will be the authors of two of the leading studies on the correlation between judges' gender and/or race/ethnicity and judicial decisionmaking – Professor Pat K. Chew of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, who (together with Robert E. Kelley) authored "Myth of the Color-Blind Judge: An Empirical Analysis of Racial Harassment Cases," 86 *Washington University Law Review* 1117 (2009), and Jennifer L. Peresie of Washington, D.C.'s Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans & Figel, P.L.L.C., who authored "Female Judges Matter: Gender and Collegial Decisionmaking in the Federal Appellate Courts," 114 *Yale Law Journal* 1759 (May 2005).

George R. Harper, Esq.
December 29, 2009
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Rounding out the panel for "Diversity on the Bench" – which will be chaired by Judge Berle Schiller of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania – will be Judge Philip R. Martinez of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, Judge Carol E. Jackson of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, and jury consultant Leslie Ellis of the national litigation support firm Kroll Ontrack/TrialGraphix.

If you will be present at "Diversity on the Bench," please be sure to let me know as soon as possible, so that we can make plans to introduce and acknowledge you at the beginning of the program. In addition, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, or if you need any further information to assist in publicizing the event. My direct dial, private line is 212.264.5482; and Amanda Raible of the ABA staff can be reached at 312.988.5450 or RaibleA@staff.abanet.org.

Thanks in large measure to the Inter-American Bar Association, "Diversity on the Bench: Is the 'Wise Latina' a Myth?" promises to be one of the highlights of the upcoming ABA Midyear Meeting. Thank you once again for your invaluable support. I hope to have the chance to meet you in Orlando, to express my gratitude in person.

Warmest personal regards, and best wishes for a very, very Happy New Year.

Many, many thanks!

Sincerely,



Delissa A. Ridgway

Chair, National Conference of
Federal Trial Judges

cc: Mariana Cordier, Secretary General
Inter-American Bar Association

Andrew J. Markus, Esq.
Carlton Fields