

**Roberto Martínez, Robert Josefsberg, Marcos Jiménez,
Cesar Alvarez, Frank Jiménez, Jacqueline Becerra,
Rene Murai and Francisco Angones**

April 6, 2009

Senator Robert Menendez
United States Senate
528 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Harold Hongju Koh: Nominee for
Legal Adviser to the United States Department of State

Dear Senator Menendez:

We are writing to express our strong bi-partisan support for Harold Hongju Koh for the position of Legal Adviser to the United States Department of State. Harold Hongju Koh currently serves as the Dean of the Yale Law School (YLS) and its Gerard C. and Bernice Latrobe Smith Professor of International Law.

Dean Koh is a uniquely qualified candidate, and an inspired choice, to represent our country in this important position. He is an exceptional lawyer and advocate, and recognized as one of the world's top legal scholars, particularly in the area of international law. Dean Koh also is a highly principled, unselfish, and thoroughly decent person.

Some of the signers of this letter first met Dean Koh approximately fifteen years ago, when he served as the lead counsel for the Cuban American Bar Association ("CABA") in its lawsuit on behalf of approximately 30,000 Cuban nationals who were fleeing the Castro communist dictatorship. Dean Koh led our legal efforts to achieve refugee processing, and the opportunity of political asylum, for those Cubans fleeing the Castro dictatorship. His eloquent and powerful advocacy describing the political oppression and deprivation of human rights suffered by our clients at the hands of the Castro government was instrumental in our clients' successful struggle ultimately to obtain justice and freedom. Dean Koh gave of his time completely, performing hundreds of hours of work *gratis* and *pro bono*.

Dean Koh's work for CABA on behalf of the anti-Castro Cuban nationals was out of the ordinary in many respects. Although he had no personal interest in the case, he eagerly volunteered to help, and he did so immediately, without any need for persuasion. He was motivated by his profound sense of justice and liberty on behalf of those oppressed by totalitarian regimes – in this case at the hands of Communist Cuba. He was never reluctant to

criticize Fidel Castro and his totalitarian dictatorship. He was principled and even-handed in his defense of human rights. Unfortunately, many leading human rights advocates and lawyers in the United States intentionally avoid the plight of Cubans. Many of these so-called human rights advocates are reluctant and afraid to criticize Fidel Castro. Some of us encountered this ugly and disappointing reality in the CABA case, as we were turned down on several occasions in our request for assistance; but, not from Dean Koh. Dean Koh was courageous. He demonstrated intellectual honesty and moral leadership in denouncing the human rights conditions mandated and fostered by the Castro communist dictatorship.

Dean Koh's career consistently has exemplified non-partisan legal advocacy for justice and liberty. He has served as a Justice Department lawyer in the Reagan Administration and as Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor in the Clinton Administration (a position for which he was unanimously confirmed). As Assistant Secretary he consistently spoke up for the rule of law and human rights based on principle and not politics. He has continued that practice as Dean of Yale Law School.

Three of the signers of this letter know Dean Koh from our involvement as alumni of the YLS. We have admired and respected his leadership and tireless work in enhancing the stature of the law school in the legal profession and in the world community. As former students who were fortunate to be there at the same time as Dean Koh, while he was still in the teaching ranks, two of the signers can attest to his kindness, dedication, and inspiration, as he always was generous with his time in mentoring the students.

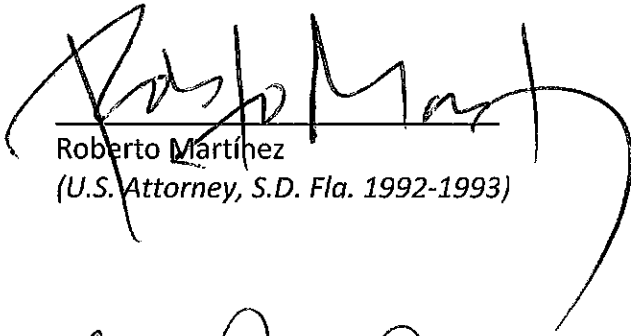
All of us have had the opportunity to learn quite a bit about Harold Koh the individual – a dedicated husband, devoted father, attentive son, and an exemplary and unselfish friend to many. Harold is a thoroughly thoughtful, moral, ethical, caring and decent man. His highest priority in life is his family - always respectful of the importance of the family as the center of one's life and the heart of any community. Also, for someone as learned and intellectually gifted as he is, Harold is totally unpretentious and down to earth.

Our country would be fortunate and extremely well served to have Dean Koh as the senior adviser on all legal issues, domestic and international, arising in the course of the State Department's work. He is a devoted advocate for the principles and traditions of the United States and for the interests of our citizens. His effectiveness would derive from his formidable legal skills, along with his honest and wise counsel in formulating and implementing the foreign policies of the United States and in promoting the development of international law and its institutions as a fundamental element of those policies consistent with our country's principles and interests.

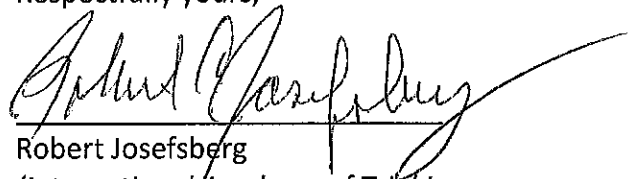
It would be our privilege to go anywhere and to meet with anyone to describe Dean Koh's qualification for this very important position, as we believe that he is uniquely and superbly qualified to serve as Legal Adviser to the United States Department of State.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter.

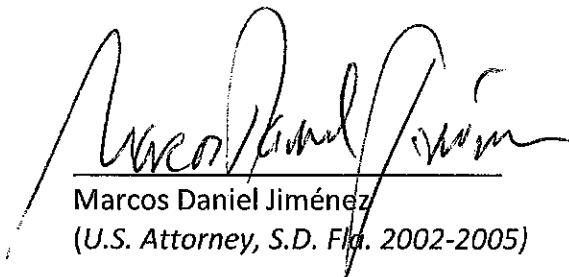
Respectfully yours,




Roberto Martínez
(U.S. Attorney, S.D. Fla. 1992-1993)



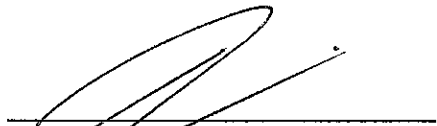
Robert Josefsberg
(International Academy of Trial Lawyers,
President and Dean, 1998-2001; Counsel to
Florida Governor Robert Graham, 1979-
1980; Yale Law School, 1962)




Marcos Daniel Jiménez
(U.S. Attorney, S.D. Fla. 2002-2005)



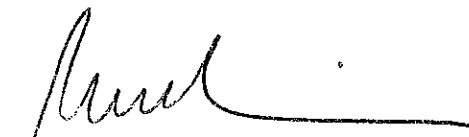
Cesar Alvarez
(Greenberg Traurig, CEO)



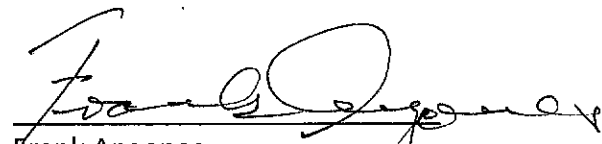
Frank Jiménez
(U.S. Navy, General Counsel, 2006-present;
U.S. Department of Defense,
Deputy General Counsel, 2005-06;
HUD, Chief of Staff,
2002-04; Governor Jeb Bush, Acting
General Counsel, 2000;
Yale Law School, 1991)



Jackie Becerra
(Department of Justice 1994-2004; Yale Law
School, 1994)



Rene Murai
(Cuban-American Bar Association,
President, 1985-1986)



Frank Angones
(The Florida Bar, President, 2007-2008;
Cuban-American Bar Association,
President, 1982-1983)