

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Michael Nava, candidate for Judge, to challenge Schwarzenegger appointee in the June 8th Primary

TODAY – Michael Nava, candidate for San Francisco Superior Court Judge, filed for the seat currently occupied by Schwarzenegger appointee, Richard Ulmer. Ulmer, until recently a registered Republican, was appointed to the San Francisco Superior Court last June.

Of his decision, Nava said, “While I was reluctant to challenge a sitting judge, ultimately under California’s system it is up to voters to decide who best represents their community. I am unquestionably qualified to be a judge of the San Francisco Superior Court, I represent the progressive values that make San Francisco such a unique community and, as the first openly gay judge of color, I would bring diversity to the bench that reflects the city’s diversity.” Nava is supported by Senator Mark Leno, Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, Supervisors Bevan Dufty and David Campos, College Board Trustee Steve Ngo and Aaron Peskin, chair of the San Francisco Democratic Party, as well as the National Hispanic Bar Association.

After graduating from Stanford Law School in 1981, Nava’s distinguished legal career has included stints as a prosecutor and a criminal defense attorney and in private practice as well as public service. For most of his career he has worked as a staff attorney to judges on the California Court of Appeal and the California Supreme Court, where he is currently on the staff of Justice Carlos R. Moreno, best-known for his dissent in the Proposition 8 case. In Nava’s 21-year career as a judicial attorney he has been involved in deciding complex legal issues in cases of statewide importance. It is a career path that has uniquely qualified him to be a judge.

Michael has long been an advocate for diversity in the legal profession. From 2007 to 2009, he was a member of the State Bar’s Council on Access and Fairness, which advises the state bar’s board of governor on diversity issues. He is a frequent speaker and writer on the need to open the legal profession to traditionally underrepresented groups, including people of colors, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, women, and people with disabilities. He set forth the case for judicial diversity in a 2008 law review article called *A Servant of All: Humility, Humanity and Judicial Diversity* published in the Golden Gate University Law Review.

While his legal career has been behind the scenes, Nava’s second career — as the author of the seven Henry Rios mysteries — has won him a popular following among critics and readers. The seven novels, beginning with *The Little Death* published in 1986, have won an unprecedented six Lambda Literary Awards and in 2000, Nava was presented with the Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement in LGBT literature. In addition to his novels, Nava co-authored *Created*

Equal: Why Gay Rights Matter to America, published in 1994, which made one of earliest legal arguments for marriage equality.

For more information on the campaign, please visit www.navaforjudge.com or contact Johanna Silva Waki at 415-882-4673.

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