



The National Voice of the Hispanic Legal Community.

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**HNBA CALLS FOR LAWS SCHOOLS TO
DEMONSTRATE DIVERSITY RESULTS**

(Washington, DC—January 4, 2006) — The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) today testified before a special American Bar Association (ABA) Committee on law school accreditation and advocated that law schools be required to demonstrate “results” for their diversity programs as a condition for accreditation.

The ABA Section of Legal Education and Bar Admissions is the country’s accreditation agency for U.S. law schools. In order to gain and maintain accreditation, laws schools are required to meet certain standards that are developed by the ABA. The ABA is currently reviewing a number of its accreditation standards, including a standard on the extent to which law schools should be required to demonstrate efforts undertaken to diversify their respective student populations. In its comments before the ABA, the HNBA noted that the legal profession is marked by accountability benchmarks that are based on results, and not “effort.” For example, corporations and their legal departments are increasingly requiring that law firms back-up diversity claims by demonstrating results. In addition, the U.S. Supreme Court, recently noted in the *Grutter* case, that law schools have a compelling interest to seek diversity in their student populations.

“The ABA has developed an excellent record of calling for diversity in the profession,” noted Nelson A. Castillo, President of the HNBA. “Our law schools are the entry point for our profession and laws schools must strive towards diversification in order to help the legal profession achieve the goals it has set for itself and that are demanded in today’s marketplace. As a result, the diversification efforts of U.S. law schools must be judged on a results oriented basis and not by effort alone.”

The HNBA is a non-profit, non-partisan national association that represents the interests of over 27,000 Hispanic American attorneys, judges, law professors, law students and legal professionals. Its continuing mission is to improve the study, practice and administration of justice for all Americans by ensuring the meaningful participation of Hispanic American legal professionals.

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