



The National Voice of the Hispanic Legal Community.

Contact: Andreia Rosa
Phone: 202-223-4777
Email: andreiarosa@hnba.com

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**THE PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION JOINS
THE HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION**

(Washington, DC – February 6, 2006) – The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) is pleased to announce that the Puerto Rican Bar Association (PRBA) has joined the HNBA as an affiliate organization.

“We are pleased to have the PRBA join the HNBA as an affiliate and welcome the distinctive voice and dedication to the Latino community that the PRBA brings to the HNBA,” said Nelson A. Castillo, HNBA National President.

The PRBA, founded in New York in 1957, is one of the oldest Latino bar associations in the United States. Today, the PRBA continues its storied tradition of breaking down barriers to the legal profession, with active members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. The PRBA joins a number of other prominent Hispanic legal organizations that already are HNBA affiliate members. As an affiliate member, the PRBA will have a voting seat on the HNBA Board of Governors while retaining its autonomy as an independent bar association.

“We are proud to enter into this historic partnership with the HNBA. United in purpose and fellowship, we will strive together to increase the numbers of Latinos throughout the legal profession, and combine our efforts to advocate for the nomination and appointment of a Latino justice to the United States Supreme Court. By affiliating with the HNBA, the PRBA will also amplify the collective voice of the Latino community calling for greater access to healthcare, education, housing, economic opportunities, and greater protection of immigrant rights,” stated Janet Alvarez, PRBA President.

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

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