



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION
September 16, 2008

CONTACT:
Estuardo Rodriguez, Estuardo@rabengroup.com, (202) 631-2892
Laura Rodriguez, lrodriguez@rabengroup.com, (310) 956-2425

HNBA PROUDLY WELCOMES 2008-2009 LEADERSHIP

Ramona E. Romero, Corporate Counsel at DuPont, takes the helm as 6th woman HNBA President in 36 years

Washington, DC ó Washington, DC - The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) is pleased to announce its newly installed Board of Governors for 2008-2009. Ramona E. Romero has taken the helm of the national association as its 35th president and 6th woman to serve in the post since the founding of the HNBA in 1972. A former president of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia and co-founder and director of the Dominican American National Roundtable, Ms. Romero has a wealth of experience in strategic leadership and dedicated service to her community. She is currently Corporate Counsel for Logistics & Energy at E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company in Wilmington, DE and the most senior Hispanic in the Company's U.S. legal team. Ms. Romero obtained her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1988, and her B.A. from Barnard College, Columbia University, in 1985. She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her community service. For example, in 2007, Ms. Romero received the Lucero Award from the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund and was recognized by Hispanic Business as one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in the United States.

"I am delighted and deeply privileged to carry on the legacy of service and excellence in the HNBA," stated Ms. Romero. "Together with my distinguished colleagues on the Board, I will work to promote the advancement of Latinos in all segments of the Legal profession. We will advocate on policy issues relevant to Hispanic lawyers and the Latino community and lobby for the appointment of Hispanic lawyers to senior federal executive positions and to the federal bench. In this pivotal election year, the HNBA is uniquely poised to advocate for Hispanic appointments, including the nomination of a Hispanic to the U. S. Supreme Court."

"Ramona Romero possesses the astute insight and passion required to take this organization to the next level," said Victor Marquez, HNBA Immediate Past President. Liz Lopez, the HNBA's new Vice President of External Affairs and former Regional President for DC, Maryland and Virginia noted that "Ramona is very much committed to advocating for diversity, mentoring Latino law students and young lawyers, developing meaningful relationships with partnering bar associations, and providing the necessary support and resources to the HNBA's growing membership."

The following individuals were sworn in on Saturday, September 6, 2008 as the HNBA's newly elected Board of Governors:

President: Ramona Romero, Corporate Counsel ó Logistics & Energy, E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company

President-Elect: Román D. Hernández, *Partner*, Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt
Treasurer: Armando Castro, *Partner*, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP
Secretary: Sean Andrade, *Associate*, Baute & Tidus LLP
VP of Membership: Ivette R. Alvarez, *Counsel*, Einhorn, Harris, Ascher, Barbarito, Frost & Ironson LLP
VP of Programs: Juanita Hernandez, *Senior Counsel*, Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
VP of Committees: Ricardo Aponte-Parsi, private practice and *Senior Associate*, Amelia Consulting Group, LLC
VP of Regions: Peter M. Reyes, Jr., *Senior Intellectual Property Lawyer*, Cargill, Incorporated
VP of External Affairs: Liz Lopez, *Associate*, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

Regional Presidents

Region I (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT): Salomon Chiquiar-Rabinovich (Boston, MA)
Region II (NY): Yvette Valdez (New York, NY)
Region III (NJ): Miguel Pozo (Roseland, NJ)
Region IV (DE, PA): Rafael X. Zahralddin-Aravena (Wilmington, DE)
Region V (DC, MD, VA, WV): Jessica Herrera-Flanigan (Vienna, VA)
Region VI (NC, SC): Hada de Varona Haulsee (Winston-Salem, NC)
Region VII (AL, GA, MS): Rolando Bascumbe (Atlanta, GA)
Region VIII (FL): Richard C. Lorenzo (Miami, FL)
Region IX (IL, IN, MI, WI): Rob Villa (Chicago, IL)
Region XI (IA, MN, MO, ND, SD): Leonardo Castro (Minneapolis, MN)
Region XII (AR, LA, OK, TX): Aaron Ramirez (Dallas, Texas)
Region XIII (CO, KS, NE, WY): Awilda Marquez (Denver, CO)
Region XIV (AZ, NV): Lizzette Zubey (Phoenix, AZ)
Region XV (NM, UT): Christina Vigil (Albuquerque, NM)
Region XVI (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA): Joaquin Hernandez (Seattle, WA)
Region XVII (Northern CA, HI): Helen Santana (San Francisco, CA)
Region XVIII (Southern CA): Gabriel Sandoval (Los Angeles, CA)

The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) is an incorporated, not-for-profit, national membership organization that represents the interests of the more than 100,000 Hispanic attorneys, judges, law professors, legal assistants, and law students in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories. For nearly four decades the HNBA has acted as a force for positive change within American society and the legal profession. It does so through non-partisan advocacy on policy issues relevant to Hispanic lawyers and the Latino community and by encouraging Latino students to choose a career in the law and promoting their advancement within the profession once they graduate and start practicing. Through a combination of issue advocacy, programmatic activities, networking events, and educational conferences, the HNBA has helped generations of lawyers succeed. Our organization is stronger today than at any point in its history and is as committed as ever to its mission.

###