



*The National Voice of the Hispanic Legal Community.*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 6, 2009

**HNBA RECOGNIZES REPRESENTATIVES NYDIA M. VELASQUEZ (NY-12) AND  
LINDA T. SANCHEZ (CA-39) AS ITS 2009 CAPITAL AWARDS RECIPIENTS**

Washington, D.C. – On Wednesday, May 6, 2009, the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) will hold its Capital Awards Dinner and Legislative Day. This year’s Capital Awards honorees are Representatives Nydia M. Velasquez (NY-12) and Linda T. Sanchez (CA-39). Ramona E. Romero, HNBA National President, noted that “the HNBA is proud to recognize two Latina pioneers who continue to redefine the meaning of excellence through their leadership, and commitment to their communities. Representatives Velasquez and Sanchez are extraordinary women representing a strong balance of personal achievement and service to others.” Representative Velasquez is the first Puerto Rican woman elected to Congress, the first Hispanic woman to chair a full committee of the House of Representatives (Small Business), and the current Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Representative Sanchez is the first Latina to serve on the House Ways and Means Committee and the Judiciary Committee, and the first woman to lead the Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law.

The 2009 Legislative Day will provide HNBA members with the unique opportunity to participate in the legislative process by meeting with members of Congress to articulate the HNBA’s policy priorities. This year, the HNBA advocacy topics include appropriations and other issues related to the 2010 Census; Comprehensive Immigration Reform; Judicial Diversity and Judicial Pay; and Preemption of Local Anti-Immigrant Initiatives. Liz Lopez, HNBA Vice President of External Affairs, stated: “As the voice of the Hispanic Legal Community, the HNBA and its members are uniquely positioned to advocate effectively on policy issues that will have a direct impact on our communities. Legislative Day gives our members a formal opportunity to engage in such advocacy.”

HNBA members interested in participating in the 2009 Legislative Day can register on-line at [www.hnba.com](http://www.hnba.com) by April 10, 2009. Registration is free for HNBA members.

The Hispanic National Bar Association is an incorporated, not-for-profit, national membership organization that represents the interests of the more than 100,000 attorneys, judges, law professors, legal assistants, and law students of Hispanic descent in the United States, its territories and Puerto Rico. For more information about the HNBA, please visit [www.hnba.com](http://www.hnba.com).

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