



Contact: M. Lucero Ortiz
Email: mlortiz@hnba.com
Phone: (202) 223-4777

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 25, 2009

HNBA URGES PASSAGE OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM IN THE 111TH CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As President Barack H. Obama meets with key Congressional leaders at the White House today to discuss the pressing need for comprehensive immigration reform, the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) renews its call for a just and effective legislative solution. “Our nation is in dire need of comprehensive immigration reform, and now is the time for thoughtful but bold action,” said HNBA National President Ramona E. Romero. “The HNBA commends both President Obama and our Congressional leaders for their initiative, and reminds them that the country, especially the U.S. Hispanic community, supports their work to address this pressing issue.”

The HNBA urges Congress and the President to push for passage of comprehensive immigration reform legislation this year. “A thoughtful, comprehensive, practical and fair solution to the problems plaguing our immigration system is essential to the well-being of all Americans, not just that of the more than 12 million hard-working people now living in the shadows,” said President Romero. In principle, the HNBA supports reform that provides a lasting solution and includes (a) a reasonable path to citizenship for undocumented workers with established roots in the U.S.; (b) appropriate due process protections for individuals in immigration proceedings, including judicial review; (c) a non-discriminatory employment verification system that holds employers accountable; (d) appropriate guest worker programs; and (e) an intelligent border plan with effective enforcement policies. Reform that includes at least those components is most likely to work long-term. “Such reform will also honor the basic American values of freedom, equality, and compassion,” added President Romero.

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.

###