



*The National Voice of the Hispanic Legal Community.*

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## **HNBA MOVES TO OPPOSE PBS WORLD WAR II DOCUMENTARY**

(Washington, DC) - The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) has determined to mount opposition to the PBS documentary on World War II on grounds that it fails to adequately portray the contributions of U.S. Hispanics that served our country in that war.

On April 12, 2007, PBS released a proposal in response to concerns of the U.S. Hispanic community that the WWII documentary completely ignored the contributions of U.S. Hispanic soldiers. While PBS's attempt to set the historical record straight is commendable, the solution PBS sets out in the proposal is on its face deficient. PBS must return to the studio.

"First, and foremost, we stand behind the American G.I. Forum, the long-standing and honorable organization comprised of members of the U.S. Hispanic community that have contributed to America through service in our armed forces. It is well documented that U.S. Hispanics made significant contributions during WWII, and this record is reflected in honorable service, lives lost, and honors achieved." said Jimmie V. Reyna, HNBA National President.

"Of grave concern is that documentaries such as the PBS WWII documentary are taken as historical fact," continued Reyna. "These documentaries wind their way through our educational systems and their pictures, images, costumes, and language lodge in the minds of viewers as accurate reflections of the customs and realities of a given period, in this case WWII. It is detrimental to the education and development of America to portray WWII in a manner that minimizes the contributions of the Hispanic community. As the U.S. Hispanic community grows, it becomes increasingly imperative that we strive to ensure that our public resources are used in a manner that fully and meaningfully informs all of America's children of the sacrifices and contributions made by America's Hispanic grandfathers, grandmothers, fathers, mothers, uncles, aunts, sons, daughters, brothers, and sisters."

The HNBA is a non-profit, non-partisan, national legal association representing the interests of 38,000 U.S. Hispanic attorneys, judges, law professors, law students, and legal professionals. Its mission is to improve the study, practice, and administration of law and justice for all Americans by ensuring full and meaningful participation by U.S. Hispanic legal professionals in the legal profession, and to address legal issues that affect the Hispanic community.

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