



The National Voice of the Hispanic Legal Community.

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**HNBA SUBMITS LETTER TO THE WHITE HOUSE FROM PAST PRESIDENTS
REGARDING SUPREME COURT NOMINATION**

In light of the Supreme Court Nomination announcement that President Bush will be making this evening, the HNBA Past Presidents have submitted a letter to the President, urging that he appoints a Hispanic American to the Supreme Court. The Hispanic National Bar Association strongly believes that the Hispanic community has earned a voice on the Supreme Court. And our nation needs and deserves such an historic appointment.

President Alan Varela stated ““This letter from our Past Presidents is further evidence of the position that the professionals of HNBA have strongly voiced over several decades. As we await the announcement of the President of the United States, we are using this opportunity to continue to have the national voice of the Hispanic legal community heard. Our Governing Board’s collective wisdom has consistently reached the same conclusion as that of the HNBA Past Presidents. America needs, and will benefit greatly from, the appointment of the first Hispanic to the Supreme Court. There is no time like the present, the time is now.”

The Hispanic National Bar Association is a non-profit, national association representing the interests of Hispanic American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students in the United States. Its continuing mission: To improve the study, practice, and administration of justice for all Americans by ensuring the meaningful participation of Hispanic Americans in the legal profession.



July 19, 2005

Dear Mr. President:

Justice Sandra Day O’Connor’s retirement gives you the rare opportunity to make history by appointing a distinguished Hispanic American to the nation’s highest court. As you know, in the 229 year history of our nation, there has never been an Hispanic appointed to the United States Supreme Court. As past presidents of the Hispanic National Bar Association, we ask that you make an important and long overdue statement about the contributions of Hispanic Americans to this country by honoring

our very best with a Supreme Court nomination. Appointing an Hispanic American will fulfill one of our highest aspirations. Hispanic Americans have waited a long time for this deserved recognition, and we have been disappointed before. We are hopeful from your encouraging comments commencing with the 2000 campaign that you will seize the moment and do what is right for the country by naming an Hispanic American for Justice O'Connor's vacancy.

We ask that you name someone of whom all Americans can be proud, someone who will be recognized by all of our fellow citizens for his or her legal learning, broad experience and record of service to our community and our country. Name one of our community's exemplars, someone who will have broad and deep support across the land, and someone of whom all Americans can say, "That is the right person for the country."

Hispanic Americans want to be proud of your choice. We want to be gratified that all Americans across the political spectrum will share our enthusiasm and our pride with your selection. That means in our opinion selecting a candidate who possesses: a) a judicial record that can be reviewed and evaluated; b) significant judicial experience; c) respect for the Constitution, legal precedent and the rule of law; and d) a judicial temperament that will contribute positively to the Court and benefit all Americans. We are absolutely certain that within the ranks of Hispanic American jurists there are a number of individuals who possess the above qualities and who are exceptionally well qualified to serve as members of our Supreme Court.

Mr. President, we respectfully request that you appoint an Hispanic American to the Supreme Court. The time is here. The time is now. The Hispanic community has earned a voice on the Supreme Court. And our nation needs and deserves such an historic appointment.

Respectfully submitted by: Hispanic National Bar Association Past Presidents

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