



The National Voice of the Hispanic Legal Community.

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HNBA ANNOUNCES ENDORSEMENT OF THE HONORABLE SONIA SOTOMAYOR

Washington, DC — The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) announced today that it has formally endorsed The Honorable Sonia M. Sotomayor to serve as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. The HNBA's Special Committee on the U.S. Supreme Court has concluded its most recent review of Judge Sotomayor's qualifications and overall record, and found her to be 'extraordinarily well-qualified' to serve on the Nation's highest court. According to Ramona E. Romero, HNBA National President, "the HNBA unanimously endorsed Judge Sotomayor after reviewing her judicial record, professional competence, intellect, character, reputation for integrity, temperament, commitment to equal justice and record of service to the American public and the Hispanic community." Carlos Ortiz, who co-chairs the HNBA's Supreme Court Committee, added that "based on our review, we are certain that she is extraordinary well-equipped to serve on our country's high court. We believe that she embodies all the qualities required for service as a Justice, and are confident that, when confirmed, she will render fair and impartial justice for all Americans. We recommend her without any reservation."

This is the HNBA's fourth review of Judge Sotomayor's record. The HNBA conducted due diligence before including Judge Sotomayor on a short list of potential Hispanic American nominees for the U.S. Supreme Court released in 2005. Her credentials were also reviewed by the HNBA prior to her elevation to the Second Circuit in 1998, and when she was nominated for the U.S. District Court. "In each instance, we have been impressed by her intellect, her commitment to the rule of law and equal justice, her experience, and her respect for all who interact with the legal system," said Ms. Romero. Since the nomination of Judge Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court in late May, the HNBA has met with members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and their staff to advocate for a fair and expeditious confirmation hearing. The HNBA looks forward to the opportunity to reiterate its strong support for Judge Sotomayor during the confirmation process.

The HNBA Supreme Court Committee is co-chaired by Robert Raben, founder and President of The Raben Group. Its members are Michael A. Olivas, Houston, TX; HNBA Law Professor Sect Chair Emeritus, 1987-2009; Gilbert F. Casellas, Round Rock, TX; HNBA Past President, 1984-1985; Mark S. Gallegos, Miami, FL; HNBA Past President, 1988-1989; Dolores S. Atencio, Denver, CO; HNBA Past President, 1991-1992; Mary T. Hernandez, San Jose, CA; HNBA Past President, 1994-1995; Gregory A. Vega, San Diego, CA; HNBA Past President, 1997-1998; Lillian R. Apodaca, Albuquerque, NM; HNBA Past President, 1998-1999.

The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) is an incorporated, not-for-profit, national membership Association 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. ###