



The National Voice of the Hispanic Legal Community.

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The HNBA Responds to Roberts Nomination

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) expresses disappointment that the President did not nominate a Hispanic American to fill the seat vacated by Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

The HNBA presented President George W. Bush with a list of eight qualified candidates to consider for appointment. In nominating Judge Roberts, the President has bypassed an opportunity to create a historic legacy for the estimated 41.3 million Hispanic Americans and his administration. Undeterred, we will continue to advocate that the President appoint a Hispanic justice who will reflect our diverse cultural society.

"We are absolutely determined to see a Hispanic American on this nation's highest court. Although we strongly urged the President to appoint a Hispanic, he has decided to go in another direction. This is but a temporary setback," stated HNBA President Alan Varela.

"America is a great country that promises opportunity to anyone - no matter his or her race, creed, or starting circumstances in life - who embraces the values of hard work, integrity, and a desire to succeed. Countless Hispanics have taken this promise to heart and are ready to serve America at all levels of leadership. Certainly there are many Hispanics in the legal profession who have the experience, credentials, intellect, and character to uphold the Constitution as a justice of the Supreme Court. With all respect to Judge Roberts, it is clearly the time to appoint one of them," said Varela.

As with any nominee, the HNBA looks forward to working with the President, the Senate Judiciary Committee and others in the ensuing confirmation process. The HNBA will examine the legal temperament, record and experience of Judge Roberts under the criteria applied to our proposed Hispanic nominees, including whether or not this nominee is supportive of and responsive to the needs and concerns of

Hispanics. At the appropriate time, the HNBA will make known its determination on the President's nominee.

The HNBA is a non-profit, national association that represents the interests of over 27,000 Hispanic American attorneys, judges, law professors, law students and legal professionals. Its continuing mission: to improve the study, practice and administration of justice for all Americans by ensuring the meaningful participation of Hispanic American legal professionals.

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