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**HNBA COMMENDS THE NOMINATION OF MARI CARMEN APONTE
FOR U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR**

WASHINGTON, DC – The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) commends President Barack H. Obama for the nomination of Mari Carmen Aponte as United States Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador. A highly qualified and distinguished leader, Ms. Aponte was one of the first Latinas to earn the prestigious White House Fellowship and has worked in the government, private, and non-profit sector over her long and illustrious professional career.

Román D. Hernández, HNBA National President, noted, “Ms. Aponte is a nationally recognized leader, and her extensive professional experience demonstrates her legal acumen and skills as a spokesperson and diplomat. In the private sector, she represented major international companies; in the non-profit sector, she similarly represented important constituencies. She is an exceptionally qualified candidate for Chief of Mission to El Salvador. The HNBA hopes the U.S. Senate proceeds with a speedy confirmation.”

Ms. Aponte has been an active member of the HNBA for the past thirty years and was the first Latina to serve as National President of the Association (1983-1984). She has also served the HNBA in various capacities, most recently as a strategic advisor for HNBA endorsements and as a member of the HNBA Commission on the Status of Latinas in the Legal Profession. In 2009, the HNBA recognized Ms. Aponte during its Annual Convention with the Lifetime Achievement Award, noting her contributions to the legal profession and Latino community.

The HNBA is an incorporated, not-for-profit, non-partisan, 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.

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