

HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

E-Noticias

December 21, 2009

HNBA Commends the Application of Federal law to Prosecute Hate Crimes

The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) applauds the U.S. Department of Justice for investigating and prosecuting the 2008 murder of Luis Eduardo Ramirez Zavala, an immigrant of Hispanic origin and resident of Shenandoah, Pennsylvania. Earlier this week, the U.S. Department of Justice announced that a federal grand jury returned multiple indictments against two teens and three police officers for the racially-motivated fatal beating of Mr. Ramirez, in addition to obstruction of justice, conspiracy, official misconduct and extortion charges related to Mr. Ramirez's death. This indictment comes on the heels of the signing into law of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act sponsored by the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) earlier this year which, among other things, permits the Justice Department to investigate and prosecute hate crimes in which the victim is targeted because of race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability.

Román D. Hernández, HNBA National President, stated, "This development is an example of our system of justice functioning at its best, it demonstrates that the wave of hate crimes being perpetrated - whether against Hispanics or any group - will not go unpunished. The HNBA has noted that the investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice is leading to the application of justice in this case, and it sends a clear signal that bigotry and hate will not be condoned in this country."

In January 2009, Ramona E. Romero, then-HNBA National President, and C. Joshua Alex, then-HNBA's Co-Chair of the Civil Rights Section, published an opinion editorial in the Philadelphia Inquirer addressing the need for the federal government to take decisive action in response to the increase of hate crimes against Latinos across the U.S. Mr. Ramirez was one of the many immigrants who have been beaten and/or killed as a result of their ethnicity.



Save the Date!

HNBA-NY Region
General Membership
Meeting

January 13, 2010
Chadbourne
& Park LLP

HBA-DC
General Meeting

January 21, 2010
Location TBD

Annual HNBA Mid-
Year Conference
Inaugural Corporate
Counsel Conference
& 15th Annual
Uvaldo Herrera
National Moot Court
Competition

March 4-6, 2010
Westin Hotel
Gaslamp Quarter
San Diego, CA

HNBA Legislative
Day and Capital
Awards Ceremony

May 11-13, 2010
Washington, DC

Thank you,

HNBA National Office

www.hnba.com



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