



RAMONA E. ROMERO
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

July 10, 2009

VIA FACSIMILE AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Senator Patrick Leahy
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6275

Senator Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6275

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Sessions:

On behalf of the Hispanic National Bar Association ("HNBA"), I am writing to inform you of a development relating to the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. All 27 living past presidents of the HNBA, including Mario Obledo, its founding President, have signed a statement ("Statement") in support of Judge Sotomayor's fair and expeditious confirmation. We are attaching a copy of their Statement for the Committee's information and for the congressional record.

These HNBA leaders, all of whom have worked to further an independent, impartial and diverse judiciary through our non-partisan, not-for-profit Association, are diverse themselves. They include Democrats, Republicans and Independents, and come from around the country and from all Hispanic backgrounds.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of this statement. Should you have any questions, please contact us at (202) 223-4777.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ramona Romero". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Ramona E. Romero

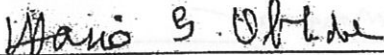
HNBA National President

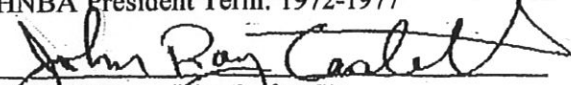
HNBA PRESIDENTS' STATEMENT

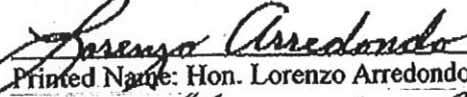
July 2009

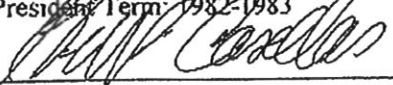
We the undersigned past presidents of the Hispanic National Bar Association wholeheartedly support the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to serve as an Associate Justice on the United States Supreme Court. Judge Sotomayor has exceptional academic and professional credentials. She is a summa cum laude graduate of Princeton University and graduated from Yale Law School, where she served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal. Before her appointment to the federal bench, Judge Sotomayor was a prosecutor for five years in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and then a commercial litigator in a private law firm. Judge Sotomayor has been a federal judge for 17 years, serving with distinction on both the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

We have all long been troubled by the fact that no person of Hispanic heritage has ever served on our nation's highest court. During our terms as HNBA President, each and every one of us engaged in bipartisan efforts to diversify the federal bench and to build a pipeline of qualified Latino lawyers, jurists and legal scholars who would be prepared to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court with distinction. We have always been convinced that greater diversity on the Supreme Court would broaden and strengthen the perspective of its jurisprudence and enhance the administration of justice for all Americans. Words cannot adequately express the delight in our hearts that our time has finally arrived. We urge the U.S. Senate to confirm an exceptional jurist with extraordinary federal judicial and legal experience, Judge Sonia Sotomayor.


Printed Name: Hon. Mario G. Obledo, Founder
HNBA President Term: 1972-1977

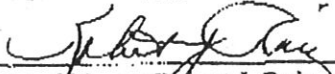

Printed Name: John R. Castillo
HNBA President Term: 1980-1981



Printed Name: Hon. Lorenzo Arredondo
HNBA President Term: 1982-1983


Printed Name: Gilbert F. Casellas
HNBA President Term: 1984-1985

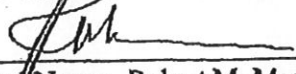
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Printed Name: William Mendez, Jr.
HNBA President Term: 1986-1987

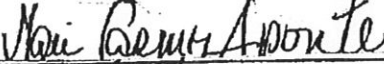

Printed Name: Mark Gallegos
HNBA President Term: 1988-1989

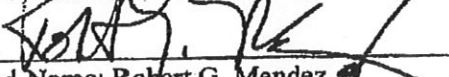

Printed Name: Robert J. Ruiz
HNBA President Term: 1990-1991



Printed Name: Carlos G. Ortiz
HNBA President Term: 1992-1993

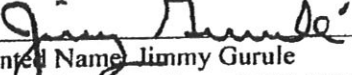
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Printed Name: Hon. Benjamin Aranda III
HNBA President Term: 1977-1980

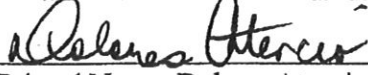

Printed Name: Robert M. Maes
HNBA President Term: 1981-1982


Printed Name: Mari Carmen Aponte
HNBA President Term: 1983-1984

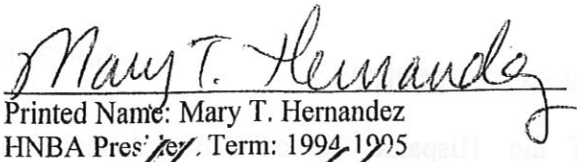

Printed Name: Robert G. Mendez
HNBA President Term: 1985-1986

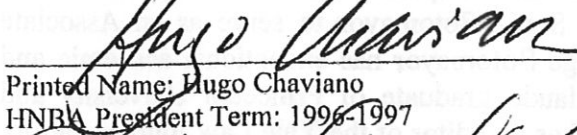

Printed Name: Michael N. Martinez
HNBA President Term: 1987-1988

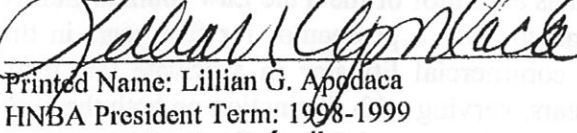

Printed Name: Jimmy Gurule
HNBA President Term: 1989-1990

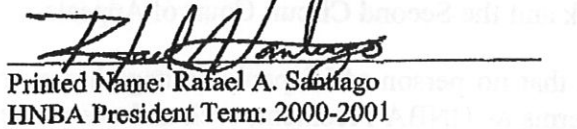

Printed Name: Dolores Atencio
HNBA President Term: 1991-1992


Printed Name: Wilfredo Caraballo
HNBA President Term: 1993-1994

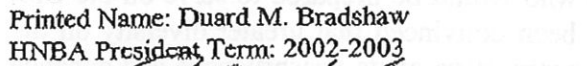

Printed Name: Mary T. Hernandez
HNBA President Term: 1994-1995

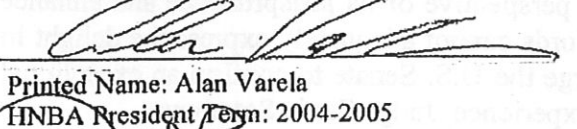

Printed Name: Hugo Chaviano
HNBA President Term: 1996-1997

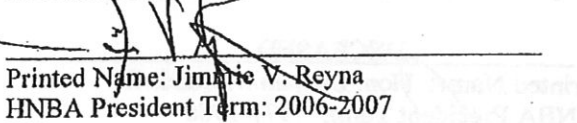

Printed Name: Lillian G. Apodaca
HNBA President Term: 1998-1999


Printed Name: Rafael A. Santiago
HNBA President Term: 2000-2001

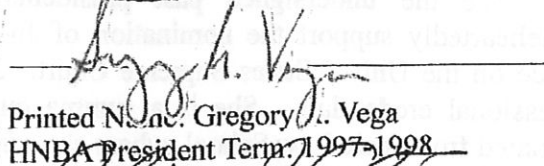
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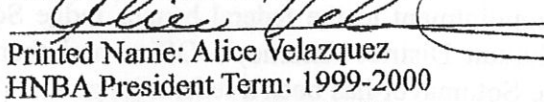

Printed Name: Duard M. Bradshaw
HNBA President Term: 2002-2003

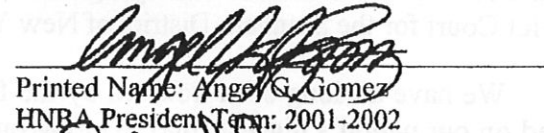

Printed Name: Alan Varela
HNBA President Term: 2004-2005

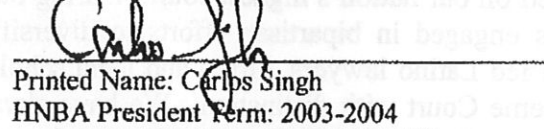

Printed Name: Jimmie V. Reyna
HNBA President Term: 2006-2007

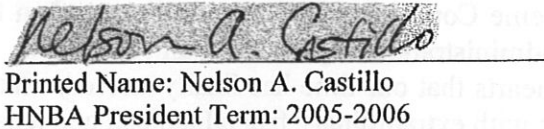

Printed Name: Jose Gaitan
HNBA President Term: 1995-1996

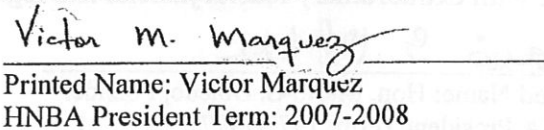

Printed Name: Gregory D. Vega
HNBA President Term: 1997-1998


Printed Name: Alice Velazquez
HNBA President Term: 1999-2000


Printed Name: Angel G. Gomez
HNBA President Term: 2001-2002


Printed Name: Carlos Singh
HNBA President Term: 2003-2004


Printed Name: Nelson A. Castillo
HNBA President Term: 2005-2006


Printed Name: Victor Marquez
HNBA President Term: 2007-2008