



**RAMONA E. ROMERO**  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

May 8, 2009

*Via Electronic Mail*

The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

For years Hispanic Americans have yearned for the appointment of a talented and experienced Hispanic American lawyer to the Supreme Court of the United States. In light of Justice Souter's impending retirement, we write to urge you, as we did in our letter of November 14, 2008, to be the President who makes history by appointing the first Hispanic American Justice of the Supreme Court.

Given the importance of any Supreme Court appointment to American jurisprudence and to your legacy as President, we know that you must consider a variety of factors and interests in selecting Justice Souter's replacement. We believe, however, that to preserve the public's trust in the Supreme Court as the ultimate arbiter of justice in our society, its decisions should be informed by the experiences of our diverse population. While many segments of the population are either not represented or under-represented on the Court, the absence of a single Latino voice is troubling because there are now 45 million Americans of Hispanic descent and we are not only the second largest population group, but also the fastest growing. We share the interests of our fellow Americans in the legitimacy of our institutions, and we share the conviction that the Court should evoke the respect of all.

The HNBA is not endorsing a particular individual for the Supreme Court at this time. We urge you, however, to select from among the many talented and experienced Hispanic American jurists and lawyers who are both willing and able to serve our country in this capacity. As you know, there are currently over eighty Latinas and Latinos on the federal bench and on state courts of last resort, as well as many other gifted and distinguished Hispanic lawyers in academia, in government and the private sector. Accordingly, it can no longer be said in good faith that there is a dearth of Hispanic talent.

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Our Nation's Hispanic community urges you to seize this historic opportunity. The HNBA stands ready and willing to assist you in any way that we can. I can be reached through our National Office at 202-223-4777 or directly at 302-992-4213 (office) or 215-913-0288 (cell).

With best wishes to you and your family, I remain,

Sincerely 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".

President  
Hispanic National Bar Association

cc: The Honorable Joseph Biden  
Mr. Gregory Craig, Counsel to the President, The White House  
Mr. James Messina, Deputy Chief of Staff, The White House  
Mr. Roman Hernandez, HNBA President-Elect  
Mr. Carlos Ortiz, Co-Chair, HNBA Supreme Court Committee  
Mr. Robert Raben, Chair, HNBA Judiciary Committee and Co-Chair  
HNBA Supreme Court Committee