

March 16, 2010



The HNBA Writes An Open Letter to the Judiciary

This week, **Román D. Hernández**, HNBA National President, released an open letter to the Judiciary calling for state and federal court judges across the country to refrain from using of the words "illegal alien" and "illegal immigrant" when referring to persons who lack proper immigration status. The letter was written, in part, by Professor Lupe Salinas, Chair of the HNBA Civil Rights Law Section and former state court judge. In the letter, Mr. Hernández writes, "The HNBA does not support usage of these terms in court proceedings nor in judicial opinions because of the negative connotation that these terms place upon litigants, and the appearance of lack of impartiality by courts when used, even innocuously."

The HNBA encourages members of the Judiciary to follow the example set by the U.S. Supreme Court, specifically, **Justice Sonia M. Sotomayor** in her use of the term "undocumented worker" in one of her first court opinions (*Mohawk Industries v. Carpenter*, 130 S. Ct. 599; 175 L. Ed. 2d 458 (2009)). To avoid the unjustified stigma associated with the terms at issue, the terms "undocumented immigrant" or "undocumented worker" are preferred when referring to an individual who lacks proper immigration status. [Click here](#) to read the letter.

4 Days Left to Register for the 2010 HNBA Legislative Day & Capital Awards Dinner!

The registration deadline for the **2010 HNBA Legislative Day & Capital Awards Dinner** is **Friday, March 19th at 5:00 pm EST**. Click [here](#) to register. This event will be held in **Washington, D.C.** from **Tuesday, May 11 through Thursday, May 13, 2010**. All components of the event are **free** to **HNBA members** who spend the day advocating on behalf of the HNBA's legislative priorities on May 12, 2010. Space is limited and participation at this event is subject to availability.

Legislative Day is a great opportunity for HNBA members to convene in

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HNBA Legislative Day & Capital Awards Dinner

May 11-13, 2010

[Register Now](#)



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Legislative Day is a great opportunity for HNBA members to convene in Washington DC, meet with Members of Congress and advocate on key legislative and policy issues impacting the Hispanic community. This year's topics include: Support for **Comprehensive Immigration Reform** and **Increased Compensation and Diversity** in the Federal Judiciary. Click [here](#) to learn more about this event and to [view clips](#) from the **2009 Capital Awards**.



Avanzando Nuestra Gente

HNBA Leaders Visit Israel

March 12, 2010

Ramona Romero, HNBA Immediate Past President, and **Alejandra Castillo**, HNBA Co-Chair of the **2010 Legislative Day & Capital Awards Dinner**, were among twelve prominent Latina leaders selected to be a part of a delegation to visit **Israel** for intensive dialogue and briefings as guests of **Project Interchange**, an educational institute of the **American Jewish Committee** (AJC). The delegation included prominent figures from major American businesses, media networks, and civic organizations.

Along with visits to various Sephardic heritage sites ("Sephardic" refers to Jews originally from Spain, Portugal, and North Africa), the group met with many Israeli women of influence and received briefings by Israeli leaders on foreign policy and Israel's strategic landscape. Discussion included topics of immigration and absorption, and sessions highlighting Israel's diverse makeup and efforts toward interfaith co-existence. Additionally, the delegation heard from members of Israel's civilian **IsraAID** disaster relief team, who recently returned from Haiti. These and other topics, including the Israeli media and Palestinian politics and society, were intended to expose the delegation to a wide range of complex issues facing Israel.

Regional News

First HNBA Region II Speed Mentoring Event

March 10, 2010

Law students from across the New York metropolitan area attended the first **HNBA Region II (NY) Speed Mentoring Event**, generously hosted and sponsored by **Baker Hostetler**. The event provided students with 6-minute mentoring sessions with experienced attorneys from a variety of practice areas, intended to mark the beginning of a much longer term mentoring relationship.

Both mentors and mentees felt that it was a rewarding experience and look forward to further developing this program and future events.



HNBA Attends NCLR's Capital Awards Dinner

March 2, 2010

Ramona Romero, HNBA Immediate Past President, and **Liz Lopez**, HNBA Vice President of External Affairs, represented the HNBA at the **NCLR Capital Awards Dinner**. This event brought together more than 750 participants, including Members of Congress, National Hispanic leaders and executives from Fortune 500 Companies. This year's NCLR award recipients were the **Hon. Harry Reid (D-NV)**, **Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-18th)** and **Beverly Roberton**, President, National Civil Rights Museum.



(Pictured L to R: Liz Lopez, HNBA Vice President of External Affairs; Hon. Kendrick Meek (FL-17th), Ramona Romero, HNBA Immediate Past President and Alejandra Castillo)

HNBA Region I Hosts a Reception for U.S. Attorney Carmen M. Ortiz

March 1, 2010

Hispanic National Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association and Chief Judge **Mark L. Wolf** hosted a reception for **Ms. Carmen M. Ortiz**. She was nominated by **President Obama** to serve as the U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in November 2009 by unanimous consent. Carmen M. Ortiz, who grew up in a humble background

in New York City's tough Spanish Harlem neighborhood. She is the first woman and first Hispanic to hold the job of the state's top federal prosecutor. The reception took place at the John Joseph Moakley Federal Courthouse.

(Source:http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2009/11/carmen_ortiz_co.html)



(Pictured Above from L to R: J. Corey Harris, HNBA Deputy Regional President; Carmen M. Ortiz, United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts; Robert W. Hamais, HNBA Deputy Regional President; and Roland D. Hughes, HNBA Deputy Regional President)

HNBA Participates in LULAC's Legislative Conference and Awards Gala

February 24, 2010

Liz Lopez, HNBA Vice President of External Affairs, represented the HNBA at **LULAC's Legislative Conference**. Panel topics included: *Immigration Reform, Addressing Latino Childhood Obesity, Expanding Broadband to the Latino Community, and Employment Creation and Economic Stimulus*. The **Hon. Ben Ray Lujan** (NM-3) gave the opening remarks during the Awards Gala. LULAC recognized the **Hon. Luis Fortuno**, Governor of Puerto Rico; **Hon. Nydia Velasquez** (NY-12); **Hon. Henry Cuellar** (TX-28) and the **Hon. Ciro Rodriguez** (TX-23) for their contributions to the Latino community.



(Pictured Above from L to R: Liz Lopez, HNBA Vice President of External Affairs; Hon. Ben Ray Lujan (NM-3); and Ramona Romero, HNBA Immediate Past President)

HNBA Region I Networking Reception

February 24, 2010

Region I of the **Hispanic National Bar Association** (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont) held its Networking Reception for regional attorneys and law students. The successful event took place at **Burns & Levinson LLP** Boston office. The HNBA thanks Burns & Levinson LLP for its generous sponsorship of this event.



(Pictured Above on the Left from L to R: Orlando Lopez, Burns & Levinson LLP; Roland D. Hughes; Salomon Chiquiar-Rabinovich, Esq., EEO Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau Boston Regional Center; Roberta Limongi Ruiz; HNBA Region I President; Robert W. Harnais)

Upcoming Events

The Puerto Rican Bar Association of Florida Hosts 3rd Annual Puerto Rico Status Seminar

HNBA affiliate organization, the **Puerto Rican Bar Association of Florida** (the "PR Bar"), will be hosting their **Third Annual Puerto Rico Status Seminar** to discuss salient legal issues surrounding Puerto Rico status. This half day seminar will be hosted and held at St. Thomas University School of Law on **Saturday, April 24, 2010** from 10:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at the Law School's Moot Court Auditorium.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey's 29th Annual Scholarship Gala and Awards Dinner

Join the **HBANJ** on **May 1, 2010** at the **Hyatt Regency Jersey City** for a fantastic evening of dinner, dancing and spectacular views of the New York City skyline. Enjoy world-class entertainment, speciality cocktails and gourmet food all while honoring leaders in the Hispanic Legal Community and helping Law Students make their dreams a reality. Please click [here](#) to register and for more information. Be sure to register before **March 19th** to take advantage of special reduced price early bird ticket rates.

2010 Mexican-American Bar Association of Texas Law Student & Leadership Conference

HNBA affiliate organization, the **Mexican-American Bar Association of Texas** (MABATx) is excited to hold its annual Law Student & Leadership Conference on **Saturday, April 17, 2010** at **South Texas College of Law** in downtown Houston. **HNBA National President, Román D. Hernández**, will provide the keynote address at the conference. **Benny Agosto, Jr., 2010 Texas Law Student & Leadership Conference Chair**, is pleased to announce the conference is an opportunity for law students from all over the great State of Texas to learn practical application as well as legal theory from talented legal minds. Additionally, it is an opportunity for attorneys to offer advice and support to law students. Guest speakers include nationally recognized and accomplished attorneys, as well as, District, Appellate, and Supreme Court Justices of the State of Texas. On **Friday, April 16, 2010**, **Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Friend** will be hosting a cocktail hour as part of the event. Click [here](#) for more information.

It's That Time of the Year...

Renew Your HNBA Membership Today!

HNBA membership runs from January 1st to December 31st of each year. If you have not done so already, renew your membership today. It's fast and easy. Simply login to our website at www.hnba.com. Membership allows you to receive discounts on HNBA 2010 upcoming events. If you have questions, call our National Office at (202) 223-4777.

Opportunities....

Hispanic National Bar Association's Spring and Summer Internship Application Now Available Online!

The HNBA seeks motivated undergraduate or law students to support its programs and mission. Specifically, this unpaid internship provides a unique opportunity to work on legal and policy issues important to the HNBA membership. In addition, the intern would provide support to the HNBA staff in planning and implementing its programs and events. The intern(s) will report to the Membership and Outreach Manager but may also work directly with the Executive Director, the HNBA staff, and the HNBA Board of Governors. The internship may provide University credit.

Internship Contact:

For more information about this internship opportunity or to submit your internship application with cover letter and résumé, contact:

Erika G. Espinoza

Membership and Outreach Manager
Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA)
1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 507
Washington, DC 20036
eespinoza@hnba.com
(202) 223-4777 ext 302

(202) 223-4777 ext. 502

[Click Here for More Information](#) and for HNBA Job Postings for HNBA Members.

**HNBA National Office
Hispanic National Bar Association
1001 Connecticut Ave, NW Suite 507
Washington, DC 20036**

Phone: 202.223.4777

Fax: 202.223.2324