



HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

The National Voice of the Hispanic Legal Community

¡Saludos colegas!

I am very excited about this upcoming year, and I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you to grow this organization even further. Robert and his team did a phenomenal job, and I am grateful for his leadership. Now, it is up to us, together with our terrific National Office and our generous sponsors and strategic partners, to continue building on the successes of past years, and continue our mission of being the voice of the Hispanic legal community and Latinos and Latinas everywhere.

As you know, the theme for this year will be “Strengthening the Future of Law.” The reason I chose this theme is simple: the stronger we are as an organization, the better we can serve our Members, who are the Future of the practice of law. To that end, I will focus on reinforcing and modernizing our internal structures, systems, and finances, to make sure that the HNBA is the most efficient, agile and effective bar association it can be. I will also focus on our members, by listening to their needs, and providing them with the tools they need to succeed. It is my belief that our association should provide **value** to every single one of our members, regardless of their area of expertise or career track, through expanded networking opportunities, and robust and insightful programming. I will pay special attention to our law students, to ensure a long and steady influx of successful attorneys and advocates into our profession and of course our Association. I will also work to on improving our communications with our members, sponsors and partners, maximizing our use of available technology to reach every one of you more frequently and efficiently.

Of course, our focus cannot be only inward; a strong organization like ours must also be a strong advocate for justice and equality. To that end, I will continue to focus on strong advocacy on issues of importance to the Latino community, with particular emphasis on voting rights, a crucial issue on this election year. As lawyers, we have a moral obligation to speak up when others can’t, and **rise** in the face of injustice. Despite our hard work and that of those who came before us, Latinos and Latinas are grossly underrepresented in the legal profession and in the corporate boardroom; too many of our brothers and sisters live fearfully in the shadows; and as it has been evident during this election cycle, there are still those (including those who aspire to lead this country) who believe in discrimination and divisiveness, rather than diversity and inclusion, fundamental values to our modern society. We must not and will not stay silent in the face of prejudice; the future of our country, and our profession, is at stake.

As we work together towards Strengthening the Future of Law, we should not lose sight of what brought us together in the first place: a sense of commitment and family. Let’s build stronger relationships with our sponsors, our community, and most importantly, with each other. Take the time to further forge those bonds that unite us. And equally important, let’s have fun while we work hard towards achieving our mission.

I have no words to express my gratitude for the opportunity to lead such an extraordinary team this coming year. Now, let’s roll up our sleeves, and let’s go. We’ve got a lot of work to do, together. Pa’lante siempre...

Fuerte abrazo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pedro Torres-Diaz", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Pedro Jaime Torres-Díaz

HNBA National President 2016-2017