



To whom it may concern:

The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) and Microsoft have teamed up to create an exciting, bold new program to increase Hispanic representation in the field of intellectual property law. Innovation is the lifeblood of the U.S. economy and IP law is an increasingly important factor in America's future economic strength. Yet, statistics show that Hispanic lawyers are underrepresented in the field of IP law. The low numbers suggest a lack of understanding about IP law, a lack of role models, and a misconception about the skills and background needed to practice in the IP field. The HNBA/Microsoft IP Law Institute ("IP Law Institute") is committed to changing those statistics.

The IP Law Institute will select up to 25 law students from law schools throughout the country to participate in an IP law immersion program. Competition for spots in the IP Law Institute is expected to be high. Selected candidates will spend a week in Washington D.C. where the IP Law Institute will take place. Travel to and from Washington, D.C., lodging, meals and materials will be covered by the IP Law Institute. The IP Law Institute will provide substantive instruction, hands-on practical experience, writing workshops, visits to U.S. government institutions related to IP law (Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. International Trade Commission, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit), briefings from leading IP practitioners and congressional and executive branch authorities, and networking opportunities, all designed to give participants a broad understanding of IP law practice.

The IP Law Institute will be anchored by a briefing on issues in an active patent litigation case followed by attending live oral arguments on the same case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ("CAFC"). Attendees will also receive a rare behind the scenes tour of the court and meet CAFC Judges and law clerks. The Honorable Jimmie V. Reyna of the CAFC will host the group at the court and will speak to the students about IP law and the court's role in its development.

We realize that the timing for the IP Law Institute conflicts with the summer intern and clerkship schedules of many firms. We believe however that the benefits to the students, as well as to the firms for which they work, will far outweigh any scheduling conflict, and we ask that you allow the participation of any student in your program that applies and is selected. If you have any questions about the program, please go to: www.HNBA.com. Both the HNBA and Microsoft hope you will join us in making the IP Law Institute a premiere experience for the students and a shining example for transformative change.

Cynthia D. Mares
HNBA National President

Horacio Gutierrez, Esq.
Microsoft Corporation
Corporate Vice President and
Deputy General Counsel