

May 30, 2018

Samuel Hernandez
Samuel.Hernandez@klgates.com

By E-mail

T +1 503 226 5707
F +1 503 248 9085

Hispanic National Bar Association
Nominations Committee
1020 19th Street NW Suite 505
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Nominations Committee:

I am submitting this self-nomination statement for consideration as the Regional President for Region XVI, encompassing Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. As the Immediate Past President of the Oregon Hispanic Bar Association, and an active Board Member of the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, I have a proven track record of service within the Hispanic community and am uniquely well-positioned to serve as the HNBA's next Region XVI President.

I am an associate for the global law firm K&L Gates LLP, resident in the Portland office, focusing my practice in the defense of employers against claims filed by prospective, current, or former employees in both Oregon state and federal courts. I also maintain an active practice in commercial and class action litigation. I have been an active member in good standing of the Oregon State Bar since 2010, with no disciplinary record.

I am deeply involved within Oregon's Hispanic legal community, the Hispanic community at large, and provide service to our state in general. I regularly volunteer my time with the Oregon Hispanic Bar Association (Immediate Past President); the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (since 2012); and the Oregon Army National Guard (Bronze Star Medal - 2007; Combat Infantry Badge - 2007; and Afghanistan Campaign Medal - 2007 and 2015). I recently served as a Judge for the Portland Techstars Startup Weekend Latino and am proud to have received a Leadership Award from the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce in 2014. I was also recognized as a "rising star" by *Super Lawyers* in 2017.

Position sought and reasons for running for the desired office

Holding the Region XVI President position would build on the work I've already done this past year, focusing on actions that create a positive impact in our communities and a pipeline for future Latino/a in the legal profession, including working with the three law schools in Oregon and the Oregon State Bar Diversity and Inclusion Director to increase Latino/a student

representation. I also believe it is time for Oregon Latino/a legal professionals to assist the HNBA in a more direct role as part of its leadership.

Goals for the term and desired office and overall goals for the HNBA

I have three principal goals during this term.

First, I will work to strengthen the relationship among all active Latino/a affiliate organizations in Region XVI. Currently, there are two active Latino/a organizations within Region XVI (Oregon and Washington). However, awareness as to each other's efforts has been lacking. I believe one of the roles of the Regional President is to facilitate communications between the different Latino/a organizations within the region, including the state bars.

Second, I want to increase the visibility of the HNBA within the Region. I will work with the Region's affiliates to co-brand events or partner with law firms directly to sponsor or host joint events and receptions.

Finally, I will continue the work related to fundraising and getting representation of attorneys from the Pacific Northwest at HNBA events, such as the annual or corporate conferences.

Challenges and opportunities I believe the HNBA will face in the coming year, relative to office sought

Getting affiliates and law firms to sponsor or co-brand events will be a challenge. This challenge will also be an opportunity to foster a working relationship with the HNBA and also to make local law firms aware of the HNBA, its mission, and work at a national level. As a seasoned board member for various organizations, I am experienced in the necessary work of fundraising and securing sponsorships.

How I anticipate accomplishing my goals, with respect to the office sought

I will work diligently with the active Latino/a bar associations to foster a closer relationship with each other and the HNBA. I will also reach out to the state bar associations in Idaho, Alaska, and Montana to glean how the HNBA can collaborate to increase Latino/a participation. I will find sponsors to host the HNBA President or President Elect at functions within the Region. Importantly, I will commit to be an active leader in all of the states that are within Region XVI, not just Oregon.

K&L Gates has committed to supporting me in this role. We have a strong Seattle presence and I expect to travel to Seattle for HNBA-related purposes as needed, working out of the K&L Gates Seattle office.

By co-branding and hosting events, I aim to increase the HNBA's visibility while at the same time creating opportunities to garner funds for the HNBA.

Thank you for your time and consideration; I hope to contribute to the forward momentum and continued growth of the HNBA through service as the Region XVI President.

Very truly yours,



Samuel Hernandez