



**HNBA 2018 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TIMELY CONFIRMATION OF DIVERSE JUDGES TO THE FEDERAL BENCH AND DIVERSE NOMINEES TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**WHEREAS**, the Hispanic National Bar Association ("HNBA") is an association created to represent the interests of Hispanic legal professionals and the Hispanic community, acting as a collective voice for issues of common concern to its members; and

**WHEREAS**, the HNBA is the national voice of its legal community and Hispanics in the United States and its territories and possessions; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently 140 judicial vacancies, of which 52 have been rated "judicial emergencies," and these vacancies have caused extraordinary caseloads for Courts;

**WHEREAS**, there are at least 12 future judicial vacancies that will continue to exacerbate the judicial emergency crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States' system of justice cannot function effectively without a fully staffed judiciary because these vacancies impede access to justice; cause delays in criminal defendants' Constitutional right to speedy trials; increases the number of pleas taken by defendants to avoid longer detention; increases legal costs; slows resolution of all disputes (civil and criminal); and interferes with business growth; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal appointments process should be an apolitical process involving the selection of the brightest legal minds, and the current composition of the federal bench and pending judicial nominees do not appear to reflect or consider women and minority candidates in adequate measure; and

**WHEREAS**, 75% of the current members of the federal judiciary are White and 45.6% are White males;

**WHEREAS**, 92% (55 of 60) of individuals that the current President of the United States has nominated for Article III judicial appointments are male, and 72% (43 of 60) are white males; and

**WHEREAS**, 8.7 % of the current federal judiciary is Latino, and only 2.5% of federal judges are Hispanic women; and nearly 18% of the total U.S. population is Latino, but only 1.67% (one of 60) of the individuals that the current President of the United States has nominated for Article

III judicial appointments is Latino; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 50% of the total U.S. population is female, but only 18.33% (11 of 60) of the individuals that the current President of the United States has nominated for Article III judicial appointments are female;

**WHEREAS**, approximately 11% of the total U.S. population is African-American, but only 1.67% (one of 60) of the individuals that the current President of the United States has nominated for an Article III judicial appointment is African-American; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 6.5% of the total U.S. population is Asian-Pacific American, but only 5% (three of 60) of the individuals that the current President of the United States has nominated for Article III judicial appointments are Asian-Pacific American; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 1.7% of the total U.S. population is Native American, but none of the 60 individuals that the current President of the United States has nominated for Article III judicial appointment are Native American; and

**WHEREAS**, the HNBA has a strict vetting and endorsements process available to any and all candidates for a position on the federal bench or the federal Executive Branch; and

**WHEREAS**, the HNBA has worked vigorously to identify, vet, and endorse qualified judicial nominees to fill the numerous vacancies in the federal court system and has endorsed and provided the current administration and U.S. Senators with a number of endorsed diverse candidates for federal judicial vacancies in: Minnesota, Florida, New York, and New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the HNBA supports the nomination and confirmation of the many highly-qualified, diverse judicial candidates endorsed by the HNBA, ABA, NAPABA, NBA, NNABA, and the LGBT Bar, because the confirmation of these individuals as Article III judges would demonstrate respect for diverse individuals who reflect the changing demographics of our country and the rich tapestry of backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, experiences and interests that characterize the American population, inspire the confidence of minority populations in our justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, including Latinos at all levels of the federal workforce enables our government to better execute policies that will effectively reach and serve Latino citizens; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the HNBA will continue to seek out and promote talented Latino attorneys for positions on the federal bench and the federal Executive Branch and is committed to working with Senators and members of this administration in order to bring them a slate of talented Latino attorney candidates for judicial and executive branch appointments; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the HNBA calls on the President of the United States to nominate a greater number of Latino attorneys to fill judicial vacancies and for the U.S. Senate and the President of the United States to fully support the confirmation of Latino judicial candidates in a number that shows greater parity with the total U.S. Latino population; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President of the United States timely identify and nominate Latino candidates for open judicial vacancies and that the U.S. Senate hold confirmation votes for qualified Latino nominees without undue delay; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of the HNBA until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Erica V. Mason, National President of the Hispanic National Bar Association, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly enacted by the Executive Committee pursuant to the authority delegated to it by a duly-noticed meeting of the Board of Governors.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erica V. Mason" followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

---

Erica V. Mason,  
HNBA National President