

HNBA Declaration of Independence Video

Every Fourth of July, Americans across the nation celebrate the founding of our country. In 1776, representatives of the thirteen British colonies in North America grew tired of abuses by the British Monarch and asserted their independence as a free nation. In so doing, the Continental Congress declared that our new country would be founded upon certain values outlined in the Declaration of Independence including equality, liberty and the right to due process.

Although the Declaration of Independence was drafted and adopted more than 200 years ago, the stated principles continue to guide our country's path. As Americans and as members of the HNBA, we are honored to recite the Declaration of Independence on this celebration of our independence.

Click [HERE](#) to view the Video Recording.

The transcript of the video is noted below.

Hon. Jimmie Reyna HNBA Past President, 2006-2007	When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.
John Rosero 2017 HNBA Latino Attorney of the Year	We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. - -
Erica Mason HNBA National President, 2017-2018	That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.
Irene Oria HNBA VP of Program, 2017-2018	Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer,

	<p>while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.</p>
<p>Pedro J. Torres-Diaz HNBA Past President, 2016-2017</p>	<p>But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government.</p>
<p>Jessica Mendez Past President, 2015-2016 Hispanic Bar Association of St. Louis</p>	<p>The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.</p>
<p>Matthew Fernandez-Konigsberg HNBA Region II President, 2017-2018</p>	<p>He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.</p>
<p>Celeste Villareal 2017-2018 Co-Chair HNBA Latina Commission</p>	<p>He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.</p>
<p>Richard Rodriguez President, 2017-2018 Hispanic Bar Association of DC</p>	<p>He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.</p>
<p>Lindsay Holloman HNBA VP of Membership, 2017-2018</p>	<p>He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.</p>

<p>Elia Diaz-Yaeger HNBA VP of Division, Sections and Committees, 2017-2018</p>	<p>He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.</p>
<p>Robert Raben Chair, HNBA Judicial Endorsement Committee</p>	<p>He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.</p>
<p>Bryan Browning HNBA National Financial Director, 2017-2018</p>	<p>He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.</p>
<p>Hon. Peter M. Reyes, Jr. HNBA Past President, 2012-2013</p>	<p>He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:</p>
<p>Jessica Massey HNBA National Secretary, 2017-2018</p>	<p>For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences</p>
<p>Victor Marquez HNBA Past President, 2007-2008</p>	<p>For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighboring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:</p>
<p>Mary Hernandez HNBA Past President, 1994-1995</p>	<p>For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.</p>

<p>Lillian G. Apodaca HNBA Past President, 1998-1999</p>	<p>He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.</p>
<p>Roman Hernandez HNBA Past President, 2009-2010</p>	<p>He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.</p>
<p>Veronica Canton President, 2017-2018 HNBA Law Student Division</p>	<p>He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.</p>
<p>Karen Davila Chair, HNBA Corporate Counsel Division</p>	<p>He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.</p>
<p>Nelson Castillo HNBA Past President, 2005-2006</p>	<p>In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.</p>
<p>Hugo Chaviano HNBA Past President, 1995-1997</p>	<p>Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here.</p>
<p>Josefina McEvoy HNBA Chief Compliance Officer, 2017-2018</p>	<p>We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence</p>
<p>Alexander Rodriguez President, 2017-2018</p>	<p>They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and</p>

<p>Massachusetts Association of Hispanic Attorneys</p>	<p>hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.</p>
<p>Juan Sempertegui Vice-Chair, HNBA Corporate Counsel Division</p>	<p>We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States;</p>
<p>Jennifer Trusso HNBA President-Elect, 2017-2018</p>	<p>That they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.</p>