



HNBA 2021 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DIVERSITY ON THE FEDERAL BENCH

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 approximately 64 judicial vacancies, and these vacancies have caused extraordinary caseloads for federal courts;

WHEREAS, the United States’ system of justice cannot function effectively without a fully staffed judiciary because these vacancies impede access to justice; impede criminal defendants’ Constitutional right to speedy trials; increase the number of guilty pleas taken by defendants to avoid longer detention; increase legal costs; slow resolution of all civil and criminal disputes; and interfere with business growth; and

WHEREAS, the federal appointments process should be an apolitical process involving the selection of the brightest legal minds reflecting the diverse people and communities served by the federal courts, including diversity of gender, racial and ethnic background, law practice experience, educational background, socio-economic background and more to sustain the confidence of the people in the fairness, impartiality, and integrity of the justice system; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Judicial Center reports that of the current federal judges, less than 7% are Hispanic while more than 80% white; 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; and

WHEREAS, the HNBA supports the nomination and confirmation of the many highly-qualified, diverse judicial candidates 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, and inspire the confidence of minority populations in our justice system; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the HNBA will continue to seek out and promote talented Hispanic attorneys for positions on the federal bench; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the HNBA stands ready to assist in identifying and supporting diverse candidates for the federal bench because a full complement of judges from diverse backgrounds insures both access to justice and citizen confidence in the justice system; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the HNBA calls on the President of the United States to timely identify and nominate a greater number of Hispanic attorneys to fill judicial vacancies and for the U.S. Senate and the President of the United States to fully support the confirmation of judicial candidates in a number that shows greater parity with the total U.S. Asian, African American, Hispanic, and Native American populations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the HNBA also supports other efforts and laws that are consistent with this resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the HNBA authorizes its officers and staff to communicate this Resolution's content, members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, other bar associations, the press, and to whomever else is suited to receive the information in order to affect this Resolution; 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, **Elia Diaz Yaeger**, 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.



Elia Diaz Yaeger
HNBA National President