

HNBA
HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
HNBA

The National Voice of the Hispanic Legal Community

*A REVIEW OF THE
HISTORY*

OF

*HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR
ASSOCIATION*

BY

*Francisca Cota,
HNBA HISTORIAN*

THE HNBA HISTORY PROJECT

Researching the history of the Hispanic National Bar Association has been a humbling experience. When HNBA Past-President Jimmie Reyna asked me to become the HNBA Historian, I thought it would take me a few months to put together the information and produce a report. As I began my research, the magnitude of the work and effort of so many on behalf of the HNBA came into focus. This history project is not one that can be completed in a few months. It will take the lifetime of the organization to complete. As the HNBA grows, I foresee a full HNBA History Division documenting the story of this great organization as it unfolds. Stanford University has graciously approved our initial request to establish the HNBA Archives, which after thirty-seven years of the HNBA existence in long overdue. A historical timeline on the HNBA website is in development. A written HNBA history book (complete with photographs) is in the early stages. This paper prepared for the 2008 Oral History Panel, is an abbreviated account of the origins of the HNBA and an outline of the wide-range developments over the years.

The vision of the HNBA Founders was magnificent! Leadership is the fundamental strength of the organization and the HNBA keystone has been firmly and permanently set. From an organizational development perspective, the HNBA is still in the budding years. Every year, Latino lawyers across the country reach positions that in the past were unattainable or did not exist. The law students and young lawyers that are fostered and encouraged by the HNBA and the HNBF have not disappointed.

I would like to thank Past President Jimmie Reyna, for his confidence in appointing me as the HNBA Historian and entrusting me with such an important assignment. I can not express the depth of my appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Oral History Panel, Hon. Cruz Reynoso, Hon. Mario Obledo, Hon. Maria Rivera, Hon. Lorenzo Arredondo, Professor Miguel Angel Méndez, John Huerta, Professor Lupe S. Salinas, Donato Tapia, and Baltizar Baca. I would also like to thank HNBA President Victor Marquez, the HNBA Board of Governors, Sean Andrade (2008 HNBA Convention Chair), and Glenda Olmeda, (2008 HNBA Convention Event Planner), and Mrs. Keda Obleda for their support in the Oral History Project. Finally, I thank the many HNBA members for providing me with their memories of the HNBA and for their assistance in confirming the data for this project.

As the HNBA History Project develops, I ask that you please come forward and share your data, photos and information as input into this living record. The HNBA belongs to all of us, I ask that you join us in recording our past and present for those to come in the future.

Mil gracias,

Hon. Francisca Cota
HNBA Historian



**HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

MISSION STATEMENT

*TO GATHER FROM SURVIVING TRAILBLAZERS THEIR
TESTIMONIES*

AND

*TO COLLECT, DOCUMENT, CATALOG AND PRESERVE
THE HISTORY OF THE HNBA*

*SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS KNOW OF THE
BATTLES THAT HAVE BEEN WAGED ON THEIR
BEHALF*

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HNBA PRESIDENTS TIMELINE

1971-1975 LA RAZA NATIONAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Mario Obledo, Esq., President

1975-1976 LA RAZA NATIONAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Mario Obledo, Esq., President

1973 FIRST LA RAZA NATIONAL CONVENTION ALBUQUERQUE, NM

1976-1977 LA RAZA NATIONAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Hon. Benjamin Aranda, III, President
Torrance, CA

1976 SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION CALIFORNIA

1977-1978 LA RAZA NATIONAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Hon. Benjamin Aranda, III, President
Torrance, CA

1978-1979 LA RAZA NATIONAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Hon. Benjamin Aranda, III, President
Torrance, CA

1978 THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION CALIFORNIA

1979-1980 LA RAZA NATIONAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Hon. Benjamin Aranda, III, President
Torrance, CA

1979 FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION CALIFORNIA

1980-1981 LA RAZA NATIONAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
Name changed to LA RAZA NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
John Roy Castillo, President
Lansing, MI

1980 FIFTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

1981-1982 LA RAZA NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Robert Maez, President
Denver, CO

1981 SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

1982-1983 LA RAZA NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Lorenzo Arredondo, President
Crown Pointe, IN

1982 SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
WASHINGTON, DC

1983-1984 LA RAZA NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Mari Carmen Aponte, President
Washington, DC

1983 EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

1984-1985 LA RAZA NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Gilbert Casellas, President
Washington, DC

1984 NINETH NATIONAL CONVENTION

1985-1986 LA RAZA NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Robert Mendez, President
Hollywood, CA

1985 TENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

1986-1987 LA RAZA NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
William Mendez, Jr., President
New York, NY

1986 ELEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

1987-1988 LA RAZA NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Michael Martinez, President
Murray, UT

1987 TWELVTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

1988-1989 LA RAZA NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Mark Gallegos, President
Miami, FL

**1988 THIRTEENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

1989-1990 LA RAZA NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Jimmy Gurule, President
New Haven, CT

**1989 FOURTEENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
WASHINGTON, DC**

1990-1991 LA RAZA NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Robert Ruiz, President
Chicago, IL

1990 FIFTHTEENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

1991-1992 LA RAZA NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Dolores Atencio, President
Denver, CO

1991 SIXTEENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

1992-1993 LA RAZA NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Carlos Ortiz, President
Seaucus, NJ

1992 SEVENTEENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION

1993-1994 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Wilfredo Caraballo, President
Newark, NJ

**1993 EIGHTEENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

1994-1995 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Mary T. Hernandez, President
San Francisco, CA

**1994 NINETEENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
PHOENIX, AZ**

1995-1996 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Jose Gaitán, President
Seattle, WA

**1995 TWENTIETH NATIONAL CONVENTION
SAN JUAN, PR**

1996-1997 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Hugo Chaviano, President
Chicago, ILL

**1996 TWENTY-FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION
MIAMI, FL**

1997-1998 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Gregory Vega, President
San Diego, CA

**1997 TWENTY-SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION
SEATTLE, WA**

1998-1999 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
San Francisco, CA
Lillian Apodaca, President
Albuquerque, NM

**1998 TWENTY-THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION
ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

1999-2000 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Washington, DC
Alice Velazquez, President
Bayamón, Puerto Rico

**1999 TWENTY-FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
DALLAS, TX**

2000-2001 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Washington, DC
Rafael Santiago, President
Hartford, Connecticut

**2000 TWENTY-FIFTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHICAGO, IL**

2001-2002 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Washington, DC
Angel G. Gomez, President
Chicago, IL

**2001 TWENTY-SIXTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
PHILADELPHIA, PA**

2002-2003 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Washington, DC
Duard, M. Bradshaw, President
Akron, OH

2002 TWENTY-SEVENTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
ATLANTA, GA

2003-2004 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Washington, DC
Carlos Singh, President
San Jose, CA

2003 TWENTY-EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
SAN JOSE, CA

2004-2005 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Washington, DC
Alan Varela, President
Santa Fe, NM

2004 TWENTY-NINETH NATIONAL CONVENTION
NEW YORK, NY

2005-2006 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Washington, DC
Nelson Castillo, President
Roslyn Heights, NY

2005 THIRTIETH NATIONAL CONVENTION
WASHINGTON, DC

2006-2007 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Washington, DC
Jimmie Reyna, President
Washington, DC

2006 THIRTY-FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

2007-2008 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Washington, DC
Victor Marquez, President
San Francisco, CA

2007 THIRTY-SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION
SAN JUAN, PR

2008-2009 HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION
Washington, DC
Ramona Romero, President
New York, NY

2008 THIRTY-THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION
HOLLYWOOD, CA

HISTORY OF THE HNBA

By Hon. Francisca Cota, HNBA HISTORIAN
Edited by Hon. Lorenzo Arredondo and Donato Tapia

I. THE FORMATION of THE HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

Like most noteworthy organizations and group efforts, the Hispanic National Bar Association was founded in times of adversity. It was a conscientious response to the increasing struggles and questionable burdens facing the Hispanic community in the United States. The year was 1971, the landmark decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954) was still leading civil rights litigation across the United States. The civil rights of Hispanics students had been implacably violated long before. In a small town outside of Los Angeles, California, ten years before *Brown*, Silvia Mendez the daughter of Mauricio Mendez, a Mexican immigrant and a Puerto Rican mother, and other children of Mexican descent were banned from the predominantly white schools of Westminster School District in Orange County, California. The Mendez family together with the Palomino, Estrada, Guzman and Ramirez families, filed a class action lawsuit in 1945 on behalf of 5,000 Mexican-American children in Orange County calling for the integration of the schools. The plaintiffs in *Mendez v. Westminster* argued that student segregation into separate schools in Orange County was based solely on their national origin. The 9th Circuit acknowledged that the segregation of Mexican and Mexican American students into "Mexican Schools" was unconstitutional. *Mendez v. Westminster School District*, 64 F.Supp 544 (C.D. Cal 1946), aff'd, 161 F. 2d 744 (9th Cir. 1947.) *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, 402, U.S. 1 (1971) was decided by the United State Supreme Court dealing with student busing to promote integration in the racially imbalanced public schools. Race riots were intense across the land, prejudices and discrimination abound. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was effecting change. The country had been at war in Vietnam since 1959 with U.S. involvement spreading into Southeast Asia; Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. The United States was reeling with anti-war sentiments and demonstrations were held in major cities including Washington, DC and San Francisco, CA.¹ America's mainstream youth were uprising; the "Summer of Love" flower-power movement was at its height.² The 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution, Right to Vote was certified, lowering the voting age from 21 to 18. Lewis Franklin Powell, Jr. and William H. Rehnquist were nominated to the Supreme Court by President Richard M. Nixon.³

The injustices and number of abuses against Latinos were escalating; it became evident that a greater more sustained legal challenge was necessary against the blatant racism. In Texas, Pete Tijerina, Civil Rights Chairman for San Antonio's LULAC Council No. 2, had been fighting the discrimination struggles of Latinos for a number of years.⁴ A committee of three, Pete Tijerina, Bexar County Commissioner Albert Pena and former San Antonio City Councilman Roy Padilla met with the FORD FOUNDATION seeking funding to form a Mexican American civil rights organization to address the mounting problems of Latinos in the Southwest. They succeeded. Funded by an initial grant from the FORD FOUNDATION, The Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), was launched in 1968 in San Antonio, Texas.⁵ MALDEF resolved to advance public policies, laws and programs geared at safeguarding the civil rights of Latinos living in the southwest United States, later expanding across the nation. The original MALDEF member states were Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California and Colorado. By 1971, MALDEF relocated to San Francisco, California.

In November, 1971 the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary began interviewing William H. Rehnquist to be the next Associate United States Supreme Court Justice. The lawyer members of MALDEF strongly opposed Justice Rehnquist's appointment on various grounds of discrimination based on reported actions taken and comments made by Mr. Rehnquist against the civil rights of minorities.⁶

The MALDEF lawyers also sought the appointment of a Latino to the United States Supreme Court. Knowing that the Committee on the Judiciary would only recognize a legitimate organization, they founded LA RAZA NATIONAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (LRNLA). The first ad hoc meeting of LRNLA occurred in San Francisco, California in November, 1971. Their immediate intent was twofold; first, to voice their objection to the William Rehnquist nomination by President Richard Nixon, while concurrently submitting the name of Judge Reynaldo G. Garza, a well qualified nominee as the first Latino to the United State Supreme Court. In 1961, Judge Garza was the first Mexican-American to serve on the federal bench, appointed by President John F. Kennedy.⁷

A *Western Union Telegram* on behalf of LRNLA was crafted, signed by each founder and transmitted to President Nixon and the U.S. Senate, Committee on the Judiciary. LRNLA called for the withdrawal of William Rehnquist nomination under allegations of racism.⁸ Rehnquist was brought to task during his Senate confirmation hearings for his attitudes and actions while in Arizona against Hispanics, Native Americans and Blacks and other ethnic minorities. Despite the Committee on the Judiciary questioning regarding his attitude about the civil rights of minorities, William Rehnquist was sworn in January, 1972.⁹

In the same telegram, the LRNLA submitted the name of Judge Reynaldo G. Garza for nomination as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. In due course, Judge Reynaldo Garza was nominated by President Jimmy Carter and was elevated to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1978. Judge Reynaldo G. Garza passed away September 14, 2004 having served with distinction on the U.S. Court of Appeals.¹⁰

The first official LRNLA Board of Governors meeting took place in San Francisco, California on October 7, 1972. LRNLA incorporated as a California non-profit organization.¹¹ LRNLA founding members are: Mario G. Obledo, The Honorable Cruz Reynoso, Louis Garcia, Miguel Angel Méndez, Al Gonzalez, Lorenzo Arredondo, John Huerta and Donato Tapia.¹²

During this time, existing legal aid programs, initiated and funded by grants during President Lyndon B. Johnson's "Great Society" war on poverty¹³ were under strong political opposition. Conflict arose when the legal programs, representing the poor, brought litigation against local and state governments. One program at risk was the California Rural Legal Assistance Inc. (CRLA) founded in 1966, which provided legal assistance to those without access to public benefits, focusing on typical legal problems inherent in poverty. CRLA was a strong advocate for Latinos. Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) appointed an independent commission to investigate CRLA; later CRLA was absolved of all charges and federal funding was subsequently reinstated.¹⁴

To ease the increasing controversy regarding legal services programs and the local governments, change was called for by President Nixon. A national strategy was adopted by the Nixon Administration and federal funding decisions were removed from state politics. The Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974 transferred the Office of Economic Opportunities (OEO) Legal Services Program, to the newly created, separate non-profit Legal Services Corporation (LSC). The Legal Services Corporation became the regulatory agency with oversight of legal aid services. In an effort to achieve veritable independence, the LSC was governed by a nonpartisan board of directors drawn from a wide range of individuals. An advisory council was established including representatives of the organized bar and clients.¹⁵ It was believed that other national bar associations such as the ABA and the National Bar would have representation at LSC. The MALDEF lawyers recognized a further need for a national Latino bar association and the formation of LRNLA was sealed.

LA RAZA NATIONAL LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Boalt Hall Law School, Berkeley, CA, hosted the 1972 Spring La Raza Law Students Constitution Convention. Latino students attended from California, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona law schools, as well as Georgetown University, Yale and Harvard law schools. From its inception, connecting with Latino law students has been a priority for Latino lawyers. LRNLA membership increased as they joined with La Raza law students in an outreach effort utilizing the Hispanic Law Student mailing list.¹⁶

At the time, Latino law students lacked access to various educational funds and services only available on a national level. This was a principal frustration to Latino law students, law professors and Latino lawyers. LRNLA met the requirement of being a "national" organization advocating the concerns of a nationwide population of Latinos. They actively sought and obtained educational opportunities for Latinos via scholarships and

other assistance from national funding organizations.¹⁷ Together with LRNLA, the law students gained access to the boards and meetings of national funding organizations. In collaboration, LRNLA and La Raza Law Students focused on increasing the number of Latinos in law schools across the country and employment opportunities for Latinos following the bar exam. The alliance between Latino law students and lawyers continues as a fundamental strength of both organizations. It has become a natural transition from law student to members of the bar and the HNBA. Today the HNBA Law Students Division has its own executive committee that govern the law students' active role in the HNBA attending the quarterly board meetings, the annual HNBA Convention, the HNBA Mid-Year Conference and the HNBA Moot Court competitions among other activities.

II. THE EMERGENT YEARS

From its formation, the LRNLA met regularly to address the increasing legal problems and concerns of Hispanics in America. In particular, as the Chicano/Mexican Civil Rights Movement raged on, the LRNLA persevered in the legal battles over education, housing, voting, employment, union organizations, politics, the judiciary and other areas. Mario Obledo the first president of the organization served from 1971 through 1976. The organization continued growing in numbers, becoming firmly rooted in the legal community. In 1973, the First Annual La Raza National Lawyers Convention was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. At the time there was an estimated 3000 total known Hispanic lawyers in the country that year.¹⁸

The Honorable Benjamin Aranda, III took over presidency from 1976 through 1980. In 1981, the organization regrouped and changed the name to LA RAZA NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION. (LRNBA) Thereafter, leadership of the organization changed on a yearly basis following a vote of the membership. LRNBA Conventions in the early years were held in California. The conventions are now held on an annual basis in various cities. The organization was later renamed the HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION (HNBA).¹⁹ The HNBA moved the organization offices to Washington, DC.

III. THE HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

Today, the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) is an incorporated, non-profit, 501(C) 6 national organization. HNBA membership is open to all attorneys, judges, law professors, law students and others in the legal community who subscribe to the philosophy and goals of the HNBA. The HNBA serves the interest of over 35,000 recorded Latino lawyers in the United States and Puerto Rico. The number of Hispanic lawyers continues to grow. In 1987, the HNBA founded the Hispanic National Bar Foundation (HNBF) as a way to provide financial support for the next generation of Hispanic leaders. Since then, the HNBF has grown into a national sister organization providing scholarships, educational programs and other tools to support and inspire

educational achievement within the Hispanic community. In 1996, the members of the HNBA judiciary formed the Judicial Council as a means of encouraging the participation of all members of the judiciary in the work of the HNBA. The Judicial Council meets on an annual basis at each HNBA national convention. In 2001, the HNBA together with the National Society of Hispanic MBAs and the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce held the Hispanic Internet Summit in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The conference was a great success, and became the impetus for the HNBA Mid-Year Conference held annually, together with the Annual HNBA Moot Court Competition. In 2006, the HNBA published *La Promesa en el Derecho, The Promise in the Law*, a bi-lingual publication to advise Latinos of their rights. In 2007, the first HNBA Legislative Day was held in Washington, DC. The HNBA Mentoring Program was established in 2007, with implementation to take place in various states across the country. The HNBA Safeguarding America's Fair Elections (SAFE) was established in 2007 to scrutinize election practices with an eye towards spotting illegal practices against the Latino voters. In summer, 2008, the first HNBA Journal of Law and Policy, Volume I, Number 1, was published. In 2008, the first HNBA Capital Awards Dinner was held in Washington, DC. In 2008, the HNBA Iberoamerican Congress was held in Mexico City. The HNBA publishes *Noticias*, a quarterly newsletter. Most recently, the HNBA Website was updated and it continues to evolve consistent with the latest technology.

The HNBA organizational structure encompasses a national director and staff, a national board of directors: President, Past President, President Elect, Vice-President of Programs, Vice-President of Committees, Vice-President of Membership, Vice-President of Regions, Vice-President of External Affairs, National Treasurer, Secretary, General Counsel, Law Student Division, Judicial Council Liaison, Law Professors Division and 19 Regional Presidents and Deputy Regional Presidents. National officers are formally elected by the membership at large. Regional Presidents are elected by their regional members.

The HNBA Regions include: Region I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont), Region II (New York), Region III (New Jersey), Region IV (Delaware, Pennsylvania), Region V (Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia), Region VI (North Carolina, South Carolina), Region VII (Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi), Region VIII (Florida), Region IX (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin), Region X (Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee), Region XI (Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota), Region XII (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas), Region XIII (Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming), Region XIV (Arizona, Nevada), Region XV (New Mexico, Utah), Region XVI (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington), Region XVII (Northern California, Hawaii), Region XVIII (Southern California), Region XIX (Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands).

In addition to the national board, the HNBA has the following special assignment positions: HNBA Representative to the Hispanic National Bar Foundation, Development and Fundraising, By-Laws, Annual Convention Chair, Mid-Year Conference Chair, Hispanics in the Judiciary Task Force, HNBA Delegate to the American Bar Association

House of Delegates, HNBA Liaison to the Association of Corporate Counsel, Liaison to the International Bar Association (Federación InterAmericana De Abogados), Liaison to National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, Liaison to The White House, and Liaison to the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The HNBA is also a member of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA.)²⁰

Members can join as individual attorney members, and local Hispanic Bar associations may become affiliated with HNBA. Currently there are over 100 HNBA affiliates throughout the United States. The HNBA reaches out to all Latino lawyers in diverse areas of practice. Membership is available on an annual basis or by becoming a Benjamin Aranda Patrons' Lifetime Member.

The objective of the HNBA has always been to address the legal concerns of the Latino community across the nation. To that end, one chief goal is to increase the number of Hispanics in the legal profession, including increasing the number of Hispanic judges on all court levels. The HNBA has also developed "proposals" for law school admission committees to study implicating factors for the declining number of minority law students and the decreasing bar-exam passing rates among minority law students.²¹

IV. HNBA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Resulting from the achievement of the first national conference in 1976 and the organization's growth in numbers and prominence, the HNBA Convention has become a major annual event. The convention offers continuing legal education, judicial education and law student education, vendors, receptions and a well attended Job Fair for young lawyers. Over the years the convention has hosted prominent guest speakers and panels from the legal, political, social and economic leadership in the United States and Latin America. An important feature of the HNBA Convention is the recognition of distinguished, leading members of the legal profession and the Hispanic community.²² The social and entertainment events at the convention provide networking opportunities with other Hispanics in the legal profession forging long lasting bonds and associations.

V. HNBA HONORS AND AWARDS

The Hispanic National Bar Honors and Awards are distinct in many ways. The number and types of awards varies from year to year. The selection process also varied in the past, except for the Lincoln-Juarez Award (traditionally selected by the president of the HNBA) and the Othli Award (awarded by the Mexican government.) With the growth of the HNBA, the honoree selection process has developed into national nominations and vote by the HNBA membership. The Law Students Division also present awards to law students.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Lifetime Achievement Award is bestowed to an individual with outstanding achievements in the legal profession. The honoree has a highly regarded standing, with an unreserved dedication and a life history commitment to the interest of justice and the Hispanic community.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN-BENITO JUAREZ AWARD

The Abraham Lincoln-Benito Juarez Award is an exceptional award given only a few times in the history of the HNBA. The award is named after two illustrious dignitaries whose legacies include a strong dedication to fairness and equality. Abraham Lincoln was admitted to the bar in 1836, and Benito Juarez became a lawyer in 1834. Both Abraham Lincoln and Benito Juarez were strong leaders in the legal profession and were committed to a lifelong struggle against injustice.

The Lincoln-Juarez Award is presented to an individual with outstanding career accomplishments, who has greatly enhanced the standing of Latinos in the profession. The honoree has a long-established, unwavering dedication and a lifetime commitment to the advancement of the Hispanic community, Hispanic causes and the interest of justice.

LATINO JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Latino Judge of the Year award is given to a Latino judge who has demonstrated a superior commitment to the Hispanic community and the objectives of the HNBA.

LATINA JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Latina Judge of the Year award is given annually to a Latina judge who has demonstrated a superior commitment to the Hispanic community and the objectives of the HNBA.

LATINO LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Latino Lawyer of the Year award is given annually to a Latino lawyer who has demonstrated a superior commitment to the Hispanic community and the objectives of the HNBA.

LATINA LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Latina Lawyer of the Year Award is given annually to a Latina lawyer who has demonstrated a superior commitment to the Hispanic community and the objectives of the HNBA.

LAW PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Law Professor of the Year is awarded to a law professor who has a distinguished standing in the profession with a history of outstanding commitment to legal education, law students, Hispanic community and the objectives of the HNBA.

LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Law Firm of the Year award is given to a firm which has provided abiding support and superior commitment to the Hispanic community and the objectives of the HNBA.

PUBLIC INTEREST ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Public Interest Organization of the Year is awarded to a public interest organization which has provided momentous support and extraordinary commitment to the Hispanic community and the objectives of the HNBA.

CORPORATE SPONSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Corporate Sponsor of the Year is awarded to a corporation which has provided crucial support and commitment to the Hispanic community and the objectives of the HNBA.

HNBA AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The HNBA Affiliate of the Year is awarded to the HNBA Affiliate organization which supports the objectives of the HNBA and has a strong commitment to Hispanic community and causes.

REGIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Regional President of the Year is awarded annually to a HNBA Regional President who has demonstrated superior support and dedication to the HNBA.

LAW STUDENT GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Law Student Group of the Year is awarded to a law student organization which demonstrates support the objectives of the HNBA and has a strong commitment to Hispanic community and causes.

RECONOCIAMIENTO OHTLI (MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AWARD)

The Mexican Government, through the Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior, an agency within the Secretariate of External Relations with Mexico created the prestigious *Reconocimiento Ohtli* as one of the highest awards to recognize foreign individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to promoting the prosperity of Mexican communities abroad. "Ohtli" means "way or path" in the Nahuatl (Aztec) language.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Hispanic National Bar Association has come far towards achieving the vision of the original founders when they formed the organization. The number of Hispanic lawyers in the United States has grown at a steady rate. Our members occupy high-ranking, powerful positions in the legal communities across the country. This review, prepared for the HNBA Oral History Panel for the 2008 convention, is meant to highlight a few of the earlier undertakings of the HNBA and has not touched upon all the events and actions of the organization or of the many individuals who have contributed to the growth of the organization. To be sure, much of the HNBA story is yet to be told. Of that story, the most glaring omission is the appointment of a Hispanic as associate justice to the United States Supreme Court. The HNBA continues to advocate and support strong Latino candidates to all levels of the judiciary. Still, for the thirty-seven years the HNBA has been seeking the appointment of a Hispanic to the Supreme Court that goal remains an un-met objective of the founders. When one considers the number of Hispanic lawyers and judges in the United States, one must ponder the question --what will it take?

The historical account of any organization or individual, builds credence and acceptance in all spheres of influence. But as is the *costumbre* of Latinos, we often fail to laud our accomplishments or even give an account. We can no longer remain silent and inconspicuous. By writing our history, we acknowledge our numbers, our strength and our dedication to make a valuable contribution to our society.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Stanley Karnow, *Vietnam: A History*, New York, NY Penguin, 1991.

² John C. McWilliams, *the 1960s Cultural Revolution*, Westport, Conn., Greenwood Press, 2000.

³ *The Nominations of William H. Rehnquist, of Arizona, and Lewis F. Powell, Jr., of Virginia, to be Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States: Hearings Before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary*, November 3, 4, 8, 9, and 10, 1971 [hereinafter cited as *1971 Hearings*].

⁴ <http://www.maldef.org/about/founding.htm>, "The Founding of MALDEF".

⁵ MALDEF, See *supra* note 5.

⁶ 1971 Hearings, *supra* note 4. William Rehnquist Senate Judiciary Confirmation hearings were televised daily. Witnesses from Phoenix, Arizona in opposition of Rehnquist's appointment gave testimony regarding the actions of then Assistant United States Attorney Rehnquist which were probed as hostile to the general Civil Rights of Mexican America, Blacks, Native Americans and other minorities.

⁷ See, Louise Ann Fisch, *All Rise: Reynaldo G. Garza, the First Mexican American Federal Judge* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1996.) [Hereinafter *Garza*].

⁸ Telephone interview with Donato Tapia, 1976 LRNLA Convention Chair, (September 7, 2007). Mr. Tapia recalled The Western Union Telegram sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee, and President Richard Nixon.

⁹ 1971 Hearings, *supra* note 5.

¹⁰ *Garza*, *supra* note 8.

¹¹ LRNLA incorporated as a California non-profit organization, by Mario Obledo, President and General Council of MALDEF.

¹² The known founding members of HNBA were: **Mario Obledo**, first President and General Counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF). **Hon. Cruz Reynoso**, Directing Attorney for the California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) later appointed to the California Supreme Court. **Hon. Louis Garcia**, MALDEF Board Member and a judge on the San Francisco Municipal Court. **Miguel Angel Méndez** MALDEF Staff Attorney, prior to MALDEF worked for U.S. Senator Alan Cranston, and is now a tenured professor at Stanford University Law School; **Al Gonzalez, Lorenzo Arredondo** law student, MALDEF law clerk to Mario G. Obledo and is now a Lake Circuit Court Judge, State of Indiana **Donato Tapia** law student, MALDEF law clerk to Mario G. Obledo, and is now an investigator for the U.S. Department of Education, Office For Civil Rights.

Also present at the first Board of Governors Meeting were **Gloria Aguilar**, La Raza Law Student representative, **Betty Camunez**, attorney, **Lilia Molina**, law student, UC Davis and Secretary to the Mario G. Obledo, **Maria Josephina Fonseca**, MALDEF secretary, and is now an attorney, and **Mercedes Moreno**, MALDEF secretary and is now an attorney.

¹³ President Johnson's Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2701 (1964) funded social programs promoting the overall welfare, health, education of the poor. The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) administered federal funding to local programs in the "War on Poverty". OEO's Legal Services Program managed the federal grants to "backup centers" offering civil legal services. John Woolley and Gerhard Peters, *The American Presidency Project* [online] Santa Barbara , CA; University of California (hosted) Gerhard Peters (database). Available from World Wide Web; (<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=2998>).

¹⁴ Founded In 1966, the California Rural Legal Assistance Inc. (CRLA) provided legal assistance to those without access to public benefits, focusing on typical legal problems inherent in poverty. CLRA was a recipient of federal funding from the Office of Economic Opportunity and proved to be a formidable contender against injustice. However, CLRA's significant accomplishments were criticized and viewed as "law reform" as opposed to "individual access to justice." In response to the negative political attacks against CRLA, in 1972 California Governor Ronald Reagan, by veto, terminated the OEO grant to CRLA. Charges were made against CRLA and an investigation ensued by an independent commission appointed by the OEO. CRLA was absolved of all charges and federal funding was subsequently reinstated. See, Jose Padilla, "*Legal Services Practice: Devolution to Second-Class Justice*" Newsletter, Vol. 10, No. 5 September/October, 2001; Poverty & Race Research Action Council http://www.prrac.org/fulltext.php?id=714&item_id=7762&newsletter_id=58&header=September/October%202001%20Newsletter/

¹⁵ See, the American Presidency Project, Richard Nixon, *and Special Message to the Congress Proposing Establishment of a Legal Services Corporation, May 5, 1971*. See also, Roger C. Cramton, *Recollections of a Vibrant Start, Legal services pioneer remembers critical first steps*, LSC'S Equal Justice Magazine, Vol. 3, No.3, Fall 2004 available at <http://www.ejm.lsc.gov/EJMIssue7/othervoices.htm>.

¹⁶ The original national mailing list was created in part by Baltazar A Baca then a law student at Bolt Hall, Berkeley, who later became president of Law RAZA National Law Students Association.

¹⁷ National organization providing educational assistance included the Council of Legal Educational Opportunity (CLEO), National Legal Aid Society among others.

¹⁸ Telephone interview of Donato Tapia, one of LRNLA founding members. Mr. Tapia had gathered in a printout format, a listing which was used to urge the law schools that more Hispanic law professors were needed. A common argument was that there were no qualified applicants for law professor positions. Also, October 19, 1972 letter from Lilia Molina to Grace Olivarez (University of New Mexico), inviting Ms. Olivarez to become convention chair.

¹⁹ The terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" are rendered interchangeable in the United States Census to identify persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Costa Rican, Central and South American, Spanish, and other identified Latino ancestries.

²⁰ NHLA is comprised of twenty-one Hispanic national organizations, representing over 160,000 active Hispanic community leaders. The NHLA works toward formatting a national agenda that will improve the Hispanic community.

²¹ HNBA law student division seeks to increase Hispanic student representation in law schools, in joint effort with all ABA - accredited law schools, the American Association of Law Schools, and the Law School Admissions Council. Through its related 501(c) (3) charitable organization, The National Bar Foundation, Inc. (HNBF), thousands of dollars in scholarship have been rewarded to deserving Hispanic law students.

²² *See, HNBA Awards Honorees.*

HNBA AWARDS HONOREES

The following list of Honorees is the currently known individuals and awards and is incomplete. To date, for the years from 1972 to 1987 no records of awards given by the HNBA have been found. *(At the time of this publication, this list is incomplete and research continues. The list of Honorees will be updated and modified in future publications.)*

1988 HNBA AWARDS HONOREES

Research ongoing

1988 CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR CONTRIBUTION MADE TO THE JUDICIARY

Hon. Rudy Apodaca
Chief Judge, New Mexico Court of Appeals

1989 HNBA AWARDS HONOREES

Research ongoing

1990 HNBA AWARDS HONOREES

Research ongoing

1990 NATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

Enrique Rene Carrasco
University of Iowa College of Law
Iowa City, IA

1991 HNBA AWARDS HONOREES

Research ongoing

1992 HNBA AWARDS HONOREES

Research ongoing

1992 LINCOLN JUAREZ AWARD

Adelfa Botello Callejo, Esq.
Dallas, Texas

1993 HNBA AWARDS HONOREES

Research ongoing

1993 AWARD FOR DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT TO THE PRESERVATION OF
CIVIL AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF ALL AMERICANS

Hon. Ricardo M. Urbina,
United States District Court
for the District of Columbia

1993 NATIONAL HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION PIONEER AWARD

Miguel Angel Méndez
Adelbert H. Sweet Professor of Law, Stanford Law School

1994 HNBA AWARDS HONOREES

Research ongoing

1994 AWARD OF MERIT
"FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE"

Richard Graffam
McConnell Valdes LLC

1995 HNBA AWARDS HONOREES

Research ongoing

1996 HNBA AWARDS HONOREES

Research ongoing

1996 HISPANIC JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Hon. Charles Smith
Chief Justice, Washington Supreme Court

1997 HNBA AWARDS HONOREES

Research ongoing

1998 HNBA AWARDS HONOREES

1998 LATINO LAWYER OF THE YEAR

Arturo L. Jaramillo, Esq.
Jones, Snead, Wertheim, Wentworth and Jaramillo, P.A.

1998 LATINA LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Irma Rangel
State Representative
Texas House of Representatives

1998 AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Deborah Escobedo, META, Inc.
San Francisco, CA

Maria Medel
Florida International University School of Continuing Education
Miami, FL

Community Law Offices
The Legal Aid Society of New York
Bronx, NY

Alpha Hernandez
Texas Rural Legal Aid, Inc.
Del Rio, TX

Olga Pedroza
Southern New Mexico Legal Services
Las Cruces, NM

1999 HNBA AWARD HONOREES

Research ongoing

1999 LATINO LAWYER OF THE YEAR

Alberto R. Gonzales, Justice
Texas Supreme Court
Texas

2000 HNBA AWARD HONOREES

Research ongoing

2000 LATINA LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

2000 LATINO LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

2000 LINCOLN JUAREZ AWARD

Hon. Joseph Baca
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of New Mexico

2000 RECONOCIMIENTO OHTLI (MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AWARD)

José Cárdenas
Managing Partner, Lewis and Roca, LLP
Phoenix, AZ

2001 HNBA AWARD HONOREES

Research ongoing

2001 LATINA LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Patricia Madrid, Esq.
Attorney General of New Mexico

2001 LATINO LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Cesar Alvarez, Esq.
President and CEO of Greenberg Traurig, LLP

2002 HNBA AWARD HONOREES

2002 LATINO LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Ernest Calderon, Esq. Phoenix, Arizona

2002 LATINA LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Carol A. Robles-Roman, Deputy Mayor for Legal Affairs
City of New York, New York

2002 JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Hon. Patricio Serna, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of New Mexico

2002 LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

Hispanic Law Student Association of Texas
Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, Fort Worth, Texas

2002 HISPANIC ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

Cuban American Bar Association
Miami, Florida

2002 CORPORATE PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

2002 RECONOCIAMIENTO OHTLI (MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AWARD)

The Mexican American Legal Defense and
Educational Fund (MALDEF)

2003 HNBA AWARD HONOREES

2003 LATINA LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Claudia Smith
Senior Attorney, California Rural Legal Assistance

2003 LATINO LAWYER THE YEAR AWARD

Rocky Delgadillo
Los Angeles City Attorney

2003 LATINA JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Hon. Petra Jimenez Maez
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of New Mexico

2003 LATINO JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Hon. Carlos Moreno
Justice of the Supreme Court, State Of California

2003 CALIFORNIA LA RAZA LAWYERS DIVERSITY AWARD

Burt Pines, Judicial Appointments Secretary,
State of California

2003 RECONOCIMIENTO OHTLI (MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AWARD)

José Padilla, Executive Director
California Rural Legal Assistance

2004 HNBA AWARD HONOREES

2004 LINCOLN JUAREZ AWARD

Joaquin Ávila
Seattle University School of Law.

2004 LATINA ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Maribel Medina
Assistant City Attorney, City of Pasadena

2004 LATINO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Hon. Dennis Herrera
San Francisco City Attorney

2004 LATINA JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Hon. Sonia Sotomayor
U.S. Court Of Appeals, Second Circuit

2004 LATINO JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Hon. Rolando T. Acosta
Justice of the Supreme Court, State Of New York

2004 HNBA AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR

New Mexico Bar Association

2004 REGIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR

José Ortiz, Esq.
Region XII President (AR, MN, MO, ND, SD)

2004 LAW STUDENT GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD

Latino Law Student Association
Fordham Law School

2004 RECONOCIAMIENTO OHTLI (MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AWARD)

Brother Joel Magallan, Jesuit Priest
Founder, Asociación Tepeyak de New York

2005 HNBA AWARD HONOREES

2005 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Hon. Ricardo M. Urbina,
United States District Court for the District of Columbia,
Washington D.C.

Mari Carmen Aponte, Esq.
Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration
Washington D.C.

2005 LATINA ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Brigada Benitez, Partner
Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale & Dorr

2005 LATINO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Luis Aguilar, Esq.
McKenna Long & Aldridge, LLP
Georgia

2005 HNBA AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR

Mexican-American Bar Association (MABA)
Southern California

2005 REGIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR

Roman Hernandez
Region XVI (OR, WA, MO, ID, AL)

2005 LAW STUDENT GROUP OF THE YEAR

Mexican American Law Student Association (MALSA)
University of New Mexico School of Law

2005 PUBLIC INTEREST ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR (*This years Public Interest Award was awarded in conjunction with The Hugh A. Johnson Jr. Memorial Award*)

(Individual)
Juan Romagoza, MD Executive Director
Law Clínica del Pueblo
Washington, DC

(Organization)
George Washington University Law School
Immigration Clinic
Washington, DC

2005 PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Henry R. Munoz, III Vice-Chair, Board of Directors. Smithsonian Institute
Washington, DC

2005 CELEBRATION OF LATINA LAWYER AWARD

The Honorable Patricia Madrid
New Mexico Attorney General

The Honorable Sonia Sotomayor
Second Circuit Court of Appeals

Margaret Montoya, Professor of Law
University of New Mexico School of Law

Linda A. Madrid, Director and General Counsel
CarrAmerica Realty Corporation

Colonel Martiza S. Ryan, JA,
United States Army
Acting Head and Academic Professor
United States Military Academy at West Point

2005 RECONOCIAMIENTO OHTLI (MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AWARD)

Kenneth I. Trujillo
City Solicitor
Philadelphia, PA

2006 HNBA AWARD HONOREES

2006 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (*Two Honorees*)

Dr. Mario G. Obledo, HNBA Founding President

Vilma S. Martinez, Partner, Munger Tolles & Olson, LLP

2006 LATINA ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR AWARD

Miriam Rivera, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel
Google, Inc.

2006 LATINO ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR AWARD

John Trasviña, Interim President and General Counsel, Mexican American Legal
Defense and Educational Fund

2006 LATINA JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Honorable Carmen Beauchamp Ciparik
Associate Judge, New York Court of Appeals

2006 LATINO JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Honorable Carlos Lucero
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

2006 LAW PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Professor Kevin R. Johnson
University of California, Davis School of Law

2006 LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR AWARD

Seyfarth, Shaw LLP

2006 PUBLIC INTEREST ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR AWARD

California Rural Legal Assistance

2006 CORPORATE PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Microsoft Corporation

2006 HNBA AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR

Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia.
Washington, DC

2006 REGIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR

Marlon Quintanilla Paz
Region V President (DC, MD, VA, WV)

2006 LAW STUDENT GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD

Latin American Law Student Association
St. John's University School of Law

2006 RECONOCIMIENTO OHTLI (MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AWARD)

Thomas A. Saenz
Counsel to the Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor of Los Angeles

2007 HNBA AWARDS

2007 LINCOLN JUAREZ AWARD

Hon. Lorenzo Arredondo
Lake Circuit Court, Thirty-first Judiciary Circuit
Crown Point, Indiana

2007 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Hon. Juan R. Turruella
Circuit Judge
United States Court of Appeals, First Circuit

2007 LATINA LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Regina Montoya, Chief Executive Officer
New American Alliance, Dallas, TX

2007 LATINO LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Lorenzo A. Trujillo, Assistant Dean of Students and Professional Programs
Professor, University of Colorado Law School
Boulder, CO

2007 LATINA JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Hon. Gina M. Benavides, Justice
13th Court of Appeals
Edinburg, TX

2007 LATINO JUDGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Honorable Federico Hernández Denton
Chief Justice, Puerto Rico Supreme Court
San Juan, PR

Honorable José A. Fusté
Chief Justice, United States District Court
for the District of Puerto Rico
San Juan, PR

2007 SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Andrew M. Crespo, President
Harvard Law Review, Harvard School of Law
Cambridge, MA

2007 CORPORATE PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

2007 HNBA AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR

Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey

2007 REGIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR

Peter M. Reyes,
Region XI President (IA, MA, MI, ND, SD)
Minneapolis, MN

2007 LAW STUDENT GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD

Latin American Law Student Association
Touro Law Center
Central Islip, NY

2007 RECONOCIMIENTO OHTLI (MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AWARD)

John Huerta, General Counsel
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC