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Contact: Estuardo V. Rodriguez, Jr.
Direct: 202-463-4806

HISPANIC JUDICIAL ADVOCACY GROUP ANNOUNCES OPPOSITION TO SUPREME COURT NOMINEE JUDGE JOHN ROBERTS

LULAC National President, Hector Flores, joins HFJ to announce LULAC Executive Boards unanimous vote opposing Judge Roberts

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Led by longtime civil rights activist, Dolores Huerta, Hispanics for a Fair Judiciary (HFJ) announced today that it had completed its review of nominee Judge John Roberts and opposes his nomination to the Supreme Court. HFJ was joined by Hector Flores, National President of LULAC, who announced that the National Executive Board had voted unanimously to oppose Judge John Roberts' nomination as well.

"Having Judge Roberts on the Supreme Court will serve to turn back the clock on much of the progress that has been made by communities of color and women who continue to face challenges in their pursuit of equality and fairness in the workplace, higher education, immigration and voting rights," stated Dolores Huerta.

Of the reasons for opposing Roberts, most compelling was the memo by Roberts regarding the Plyler v. Doe case, "Roberts, chastised the U.S. government for not intervening in that case to ensure that Texas be allowed to deny children of undocumented immigrants access to public schools, essentially ostracizing these children and creating a shadow class of citizens unable to educate themselves and improve their circumstances," remarked Professor Reynaldo Anaya Valencia from St. Mary's University School of Law.

"Ultimately, it is at the local level that our community suffers the impact and repercussions of unfairly decided cases regarding workers' rights, affirmative action, police powers, immigrant's rights, voting rights, and other issues," stated Arlington County Board Member, Walter Tejada, "These are high stakes cases and we cannot ignore the signs indicating that Roberts will jeopardize all the progress that has been made."

"Roberts' early writings and interviews he has given suggest a limited view of the federal government's authority to enact key worker, civil rights and environmental protections, a similarly narrow view of the vital role our courts and our government play in safeguarding individual rights, especially civil and women's rights, and an expansive view of presidential power and law enforcement authority," stated HFJ member Maria Cardona.

Hispanics for a Fair Judiciary (HFJ) was formed in April 2005 through the efforts of Alliance for Justice in order to provide Hispanic leaders across the nation a platform and voice in matters related to our nation's judicial system. HFJ consists of Hispanic civil rights leaders as well as Hispanic state and local elected officials. The group is led by long-time civil rights advocates Raul Yzaguirre, former president of the National Council of La Raza and Dolores Huerta, as well as MALDEF and PRLDEF.

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