

## Member Organizations

American G.I. Forum of the  
United States

ASPIRA Association, Inc.

Cuban American National  
CouncilDominican American  
National RoundtableHispanic Association of  
Colleges and Universities

Hispanic Federation

Hispanic National Bar  
AssociationLabor Council for Latin  
American AdvancementLeague of United Latin  
American CitizensMexican American Legal  
Defense and Educational  
FundMANA, A National Latina  
OrganizationNational Association of  
Hispanic Federal ExecutivesNational Association of  
Hispanic PublicationsNational Association of  
Latino Elected OfficialsNational Conference of  
Puerto Rican Women, Inc.

National Council of La Raza

National Hispanic Caucus of  
State LegislatorsNational Hispanic Council  
on AgingNational Hispanic  
Environmental CouncilNational Hispanic  
Foundation for the ArtsNational Hispanic Medical  
AssociationNational Hispanic Media  
Coalition

National IMACE, Inc.

National Institute for Latino  
PolicyNational Puerto Rican  
Coalition

Self-Reliance Foundation

SER Jobs for Progress-  
NationalSouthwest Voter  
Registration Education  
ProjectUnited States Hispanic  
Chamber of CommerceUnited States Hispanic  
Leadership InstituteUnited States-Mexico  
Chamber of Commerce

June 9, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
United States Senate  
Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), comprised of thirty-one of the leading national and regional Hispanic civil rights and public policy organizations, representing a diverse Latino community and millions of members nationwide, would like to request a meeting regarding the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to become the next United States Supreme Court Justice. As community advocates with a vested interest in serving the public good, members of our coalition would like to meet with you and discuss Judge Sotomayor's nomination. NHLA represents a vast array of constituencies that include veterans, academics, legal experts, labor activists, federal employees, elected officials, medical professionals and members of the media, among many other community leaders who unequivocally support the nomination of Judge Sotomayor based on the merits of her judicial record and overall experience.

The NHLA mission and objectives call for providing a clearinghouse of information to the Hispanic community; providing a unified voice on relevant issues; and providing a much needed voice on legislative issues that have direct implications for our members nationwide. The composition of NHLA includes groups with Mexican, Puerto Rican, Dominican, and Cuban leadership, as well as the membership of countless other Hispanic and Latin-American interests. The common issues of education, civil rights, immigration, economic empowerment, health, and government accountability transcend ethnic origin and racial identity, as evidenced by the breadth of these different groups. The Hispanic community is larger and more diverse than ever, numbering close to 50 million persons and making up over 16% of the combined population of the United States, Puerto Rico, and the United States territories.

We look forward to your response as we would like to schedule meetings for the week of June 15th-19<sup>th</sup>. Should you have any questions, please contact Alma Morales Riojas, Secretary/Treasurer of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda and President and CEO of MANA, A National Latina Organization at 202-833-0060 or via email at [MANACEO@aol.com](mailto:MANACEO@aol.com) or James Albino, Director, Hispanic Federation at 202-510-0747 or via email at [jalbino@hispanicfederation.org](mailto:jalbino@hispanicfederation.org).

Sincerely,

Dr. Gabriela D. Lemus  
Chair, NHLA Board of Directors