



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE CONNECTICUT HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION NAMED
2011 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR BY
THE HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION**

The Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association (CHBA) has been selected by the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) to receive the 2011 Affiliate Organization of the Year Award. With this Award, the Board of Governors of the HNBA recognizes the CHBA's extraordinary achievements as an affiliate organization and its contributions to the bar and to the Hispanic community.

The CHBA focuses on enhancing professional opportunities for Hispanic attorneys, and it does so in part through events where members can meet each other and others in the legal profession. The CHBA sponsors events such as the Annual Awards Dinner, the CHBA Summer Social for members, their families and friends, and other receptions throughout the state. In addition to social and networking events, the CHBA supports area law students with free associate membership in the CHBA, scholarship opportunities, a mentoring program, career panels, and networking receptions. Last year marked a banner year for CHBA student scholarship fund-raising as \$20,000 was raised for scholarships at our 2010 Seventeenth Annual Awards Dinner. Finally and importantly, CHBA has championed the issue of diversity in the federal and state judiciary. In the past year, one CHBA member, Carmen Espinosa, has been named to the Connecticut Appellate Court, and another CHBA member, Edgardo Ramos, has been nominated to be a federal district judge, awaiting Senate confirmation.

The Affiliate Organization of the Year Award will be presented to the CHBA on August 31, 2011, during the HNBA's 36th Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas. CHBA representatives accepting the Award will include President Virginia McGarrity, Immediate Past President Sara Bronin, Vice President Erick Díaz, and CHBA Board member (and Past President) René Ortega.

CHBA members may become HNBA members at a discounted price due to CHBA's status as an affiliate organization.

ABOUT THE CHBA: Founded in 1993, the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association works to enhance the visibility of Hispanic lawyers throughout the state; to facilitate communication and sharing of information and resources among our members; to serve as mentors to new attorneys and law students; and to assist the public and private sectors in achieving diversity in their law firms and legal departments. The CHBA also addresses issues impacting the Hispanic community, such as access to the courts, judicial diversity and other social challenges. For more information please visit our website at www.ct-hba.org.

Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association, Inc.

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