



LATINA/O BAR ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON ♦ ASOCIACIÓN DE ABOGADOS LATINOS DE WASHINGTON
PO BOX 21134 ♦ SEATTLE, WA ♦ 98111-3134
www.lbaw.org

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 13, 2007

Contact: M. Lorena González
206.622.8000

LOCAL IMMIGRATION RAIDS VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS, SHATTER COMMUNITY

SEATTLE, WA – The Latina/o Bar Association of Washington (LBAW) calls for an immediate halt to inhumane immigration raids that target workers. On June 12, 2007, federal immigration agents stormed a produce processing plant in Portland, Oregon, where approximately 160 workers were detained.

“The only purposes served by these raids are to separate families and to terrorize the immigrant community,” said Lorena González, President of LBAW. “These federally-endorsed terror tactics must end.”

This most recent raid only adds insult to injury as it comes at the tail end of the U.S. Senate’s failed attempt to deliver sound immigration policy through comprehensive immigration reform. LBAW calls on the federal government to put a stop to the raids.

“Immigrant workers, unable to make a living wage in their home countries, come here to support their families and fill the labor demands of this country,” said Ciarelle J. Valdez, President-Elect of LBAW. “The federal government should focus its energy on reuniting families, not pulling them apart, protecting workers instead of intimidating them.”

The LBAW recognizes the countless contributions that immigrant workers and families make to our country. We only ask that our federal government do the same. We must work towards bringing people out of the shadows, not driving them further underground. The LBAW stands, in solidarity, with all the families in Washington and Oregon State affected by the recent raids. It is time for the fear and intimidation within our community to end.

###

The purpose of the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington is to represent the concerns and goals of Latino attorneys and Latino people of the State of Washington. For more information about the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington, visit www.lbaw.org.