



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nicole McGrath (nmcgrath@lbaw.org), Patty Lally (plally@lbaw.org)

NEWS ADVISORY

August 6, 2009

LBAW CELEBRATES THE HISTORIC CONFIRMATION OF JUDGE SONIA M. SOTOMAYOR AS ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

SEATTLE, WA. The Latina/o Bar Association of Washington (LBAW) celebrates and congratulates the Honorable Sonia M. Sotomayor on her confirmation as the next Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The U.S. Senate confirmed Judge Sotomayor today in a historic vote which assures her place as only the third female and first Latina to serve on the High Court.

"For the Washington State legal profession, the confirmation of Judge Sotomayor stands as a reminder that in America, an intelligent, hard-working attorney can ascend to represent all of us on the highest bench in the land," said LBAW President Nicole McGrath. "All Washington youth, including minority children, who dream of becoming a lawyer or judge can surely see parts of themselves in Judge Sotomayor."

The announcement holds special significance for many in the Washington Latino legal community, and a few LBAW Past-Presidents reflected on the meaning of this day. "It's a wonderful accomplishment for Sonia as well as for our community," said 2006-2007 LBAW Past-President Brenda Williams. "It means that our sons and daughters will have the full range of possible future careers in the law."

"Today's Senate confirmation of Judge Sotomayor as the next Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court affirms Judge Sotomayor's decades of hard work and dedication to the rule of law," said 2007-2008 LBAW Past-President M. Lorena González. "It is my hope that her confirmation will remind other Latina/o lawyers that a career at the highest levels of the bench is attainable."

"Judge Sotomayor's confirmation is of particular significance to me," said LBAW Past-President Dan Gandara. "I worked on the HNBA Supreme Court committee for a number of years. Her confirmation is the culmination of efforts, on part of the HNBA, to let the President and Congress know there are many qualified Latinos fit to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court."