



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

---

## **NEWS ADVISORY**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 23, 2007**

#### **Latina/o Bar Association of Washington Supports True Comprehensive Immigration Reform**

At the beginning of the current debate, the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington (LBAW) is compelled to publicly announce its support for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. LBAW supports a Reform which values family unity, employment based immigrant and non-immigrant categories that support workers and safe working conditions. LBAW supports Comprehensive Immigration Reform that places due process at the center of the debate and ensures its protection not its erosion. Henry Cruz, LBAW's Immigration Committee Co-Chair, says, *"the current debate only reveals to us that the halls of power are not taking into consideration the needs of our community. We cannot support an Immigration Reform package that does not insure basic dignity and respect."* Thus the LBAW supports a Comprehensive Reform that values our community.

LBAW asserts its support for a Comprehensive Immigration Reform package which promotes the free flow of labor at least as much as the economy supports the free flow of commerce and industry. LBAW supports a Comprehensive Immigration Reform package which places value on compassion and community as opposed to criminalization of the poor and racialized national security policies. Miguel Bocanegra, LBAW's Immigration Committee Co-Chair, says, *"we cannot support an immigration package which will only create a tier of disenfranchised workers. These immigrant workers must receive the same dignity and respect that their employers receive, the current discussion is simply debating the parameters of legalized servitude."*

Statistical evidence supports that most immigrants come to this country and to this State to work and to be with their families. Our State greatly benefits from their presence and the often forgotten or unknown contributions that immigrants make on a daily basis to our society, economy and communities.

Latinos make up the largest number of immigrants in Washington State. The Latina/o Bar Association of Washington (LBAW) represents the concerns and goals of Latino attorneys and the general Latino community within the State of Washington. *"It is important that we preserve our mission statement by recognizing the needs and voicing the concerns of Latino people and their communities,"* continues Bocanegra *"that is why we support a Comprehensive Immigration Reform package."*

LBAW is a non-partisan organization. Visit <http://www.lbaw.org> for more information about the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington.

###

For more information, reporters may contact:

**M. Lorena González**

President

Latina/o Bar Association of Washington

206.622.8000 / [lgonzalez@lbaw.org](mailto:lgonzalez@lbaw.org)

**Miguel Bocanegra**

Vice President & Immigration Committee Co-Chair

Latina/o Bar Association of Washington

206.622.1604 / [mbocanegra@lbaw.org](mailto:mbocanegra@lbaw.org)