



**For Immediate Release  
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## **Hispanic Leaders Blow the Whistle on Judicial Obstruction**

*Miguel Estrada would be first Hispanic Judge in U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit*

**Washington, DC** - The Board of Directors of The Latino Coalition (TLC) and the Hispanic Business Roundtable (HBR), joined by the Hispanic National Bar Association, the League of United Latin American Citizens and the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and other national Hispanic groups, today called on the Senate leadership to put aside partisan bickering and give Latinos what has long been overdue: representation in this prestigious Court.

"We are here to blow the whistle on unnecessary partisan obstruction," said TLC President Robert Deposada. "No one questions the qualifications or the character of Mr. Estrada. Not a single Hispanic organization has opposed his nomination. However, the Senate leadership has refused to give this honorable man a hearing."

"Miguel A. Estrada would bring to the bench a distinguished legal record based on his many years of work in the public and private sector," said HBR President Mario Rodriguez, CEO of Jonathan Grey & Associates, Inc. in San Clemente, California. "Mr. Estrada also brings a unique perspective and human experience understood only by those who have migrated to a foreign land as a teenager not knowing the language. It is for this cultural depth and his excellent legal qualifications that TLC and HBR urge the Senate Judiciary Committee and all members of the U.S. Senate to put partisan politics aside so that Hispanics are no longer denied representation in one of the most prestigious courts in the land."

Mr. Estrada, born in Honduras, graduated *magna cum laude* from Columbia College and *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School. He served as a member of the editorial board of the Harvard Law Review and is currently a member of the National Board of Directors of the Center for the Community Interest.

"For Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy to call Miguel Estrada's nomination controversial is simply preposterous," said TLC President Robert Deposada. "The only controversy here is that Mr. Estrada is of Hispanic descent. We call on Senator Leahy to do what's fair, hold a hearing and allow an up or down vote on this extremely qualified judicial nominee. If his ethnic background has nothing to do with the hold up, then hold a hearing to publicly explain why you don't want him on the court."

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“We are delighted to finally see a President appoint a Hispanic to this court. It's been long overdue,” said HBR Vice President Jaime Ramón, a partner in the law firm of Locke Liddell & Sapp in Dallas, Texas. “No one can seriously question the integrity and the qualifications of Miguel Estrada. He has tried over a dozen cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, served as a successful prosecutor in the Southern District of New York, as Assistant Solicitor General in the Clinton Administration, and as a distinguished private attorney in Washington, DC. There is no reason why partisan bickering should keep Estrada from serving on this court.”

“To deny Latinos, the nation's largest minority, the opportunity to have one of our own serve on this court in our nation's capital is unforgivable,” Deposada said. The 35 million Hispanics in this country can no longer be ignored. History would not treat inaction kindly, and neither will Hispanic voters next year.”

The Latino Coalition is a non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington, D.C. TLC was established in 1995 to address policy issues that directly affect the well being of Hispanics in the United States. For more information, please visit our website at [www.TheLatinoCoalition.com](http://www.TheLatinoCoalition.com).

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