



MALDEF

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

National Headquarters
Los Angeles
Regional Office
634 S. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90014
Tel: 213.629.2512
Fax: 213.629.0266

December 22, 2008

Atlanta
Regional Office
34 Peachtree St NW
Suite 2500
Atlanta, GA 30303
Tel: 678.559.1071
Fax: 678.559.1079

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chicago
Regional Office
11 East Adams Street
Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60603
Tel: 312.427.0701
Fax: 312.427.0691

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF), I am pleased to join civil rights, legal, civic and other organizations in support of the Senate's swift confirmation of Eric Holder to be the next Attorney General of the United States.

As you know, MALDEF is "the law firm for the Latino community", and specializes in impact litigation and public policy on immigrant rights, voting, education, employment and other civil rights issues. The leadership and partnership of the U.S. Department of Justice is sorely needed. President-elect Obama has selected wisely in nominating Eric Holder to restore integrity and to remove politics from the Department.

I have know and/or worked with Eric Holder since the mid-1980s when I was an officer and later president of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia. On the Superior Court, Judge Holder was one of the first local jurists to reach out to our association and seek ways to ensure that Latinos in the District of Columbia understood court proceedings and felt welcome in their courts. Over the years, he has assisted Latinos seeking judicial posts and done much to be inclusive. As you know, I served in the Department from 1993 to 2001 and, while not working directly with the then-Deputy Attorney General, know he continued his exemplary work.

San Antonio
Regional Office
110 Broadway
Suite 300
San Antonio, TX 78205
Tel: 210.224.5476
Fax: 210.224.5382

Houston
Program Office
Ripley House
4410 Navigation
Suite 118
Houston, TX 77011
Tel: 713.315-6494
Fax: 713.315-6404

Sacramento
Satellite Office
1107 9th Street
Suite 240
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel: 916.443.7531
Fax: 916.443.1541

Washington, D.C.
Regional Office
1016 16th Street, NW
Suite 100
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202.293.2828
Fax: 202.293.2849

Of all the Cabinet members, the American people must be able to count on the Attorney General to put the national interest ahead of the President's agenda. It is a sacred trust for all appointees but its absence at the Department has, in previous years and decades, brought disastrous consequences. Eric Holder stands tall among his peers and deserves quick confirmation as Attorney General.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Trasvina", followed by a horizontal line.

John Trasvina
President and General Counsel

cc: Senator Arlen Specter, Ranking Minority Member