

July 11, 2023

**Mariana D. Bravo**  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT



**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Honorable John Cornyn  
U.S. Senate  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Ted Cruz  
U.S. Senate  
27A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Stuart Delery  
White House Counsel  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

**RE: Endorsement of Ernest Gonzalez for Federal Judge**

Dear Senators Cornyn and Cruz and White House Counsel Delery:

We write on behalf of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) to endorse the nomination of Ernest Gonzalez to the District Judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas and the Southern District of Texas.

The HNBA is a non-profit, non-partisan national membership association that represents the interests of Hispanic attorneys, judges, law professors, law students, and other legal professionals in the United States and Puerto Rico. One of the HNBA's many institutional objectives is to advocate and work to ensure that the federal and state judiciary is diverse and reflects the citizens that come before the courts on a daily basis.

The HNBA has conducted due diligence on Mr. Gonzalez. Our evaluation included an initial paper screening of resumes, social media, and writings/articles to establish minimum qualifications. Candidate and reference interviews along with interviews with peers, and community leaders were conducted to assess relevant legal experience, scholarly work, temperament, reputation, and involvement in the Hispanic community. Mr. Gonzalez has an impressive career, is actively involved in the local legal community, and has a good temperament for the bench.

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He earned a Bachelor's of Business Administration, with a concentration in Accounting, from the University of Texas at San Antonio in May 1987. He obtained his Juris Doctorate from Thurgood Marshall School of Law in December 1993.

Immediately following law school, he was an Assistant District Attorney for Bexar County District Attorney's Office where he prosecuted violent crime and narcotics cases and successfully prosecuted over sixty jury cases to verdict. Mr. Gonzalez then became a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Southwest Border Task Force, with a primary focus on violent crimes and drug trafficking. He presented cases to federal grand juries for indictment and prepared legal briefs, memoranda, and motions. He then became an Assistant United States Attorney in the Western District of Texas where he prosecuted immigration, drug, and firearms cases along the border, and successfully prosecuted over thirty jury trials.

Since January 2004, Mr. Gonzalez has been employed as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Texas. In his current role, he serves as the lead prosecutor for the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("OCDETF"); he supervises six OCDETF AUSA's, prosecutes domestic and international OCDETF cases (including one of the most robust international drug prosecution portfolios in the nation), and argues appellate matters before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

He is admitted to practice in the State of Texas, the Eastern District of Texas, the Western District of Texas, and the 5th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Mr. Gonzalez is well respected and admired by his colleagues and other members of the Bar for his high intellect, notable competence, and good character.

We endorse Ernest Gonzalez for your consideration and selection for District Judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas and the Southern District of Texas.

If you have any questions concerning this endorsement, please do not hesitate to contact us at the HNBA National Office at (202) 223-4777 or contact Mariana Bravo directly at [president@hnba.com](mailto:president@hnba.com).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mariana Bravo  
HNBA National President

Robert Raben  
Chair, HNBA Judiciary Committee

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Gonzalez', is positioned above the printed name.

Alexander Gonzalez  
Co-Chair, HNBA Judiciary Committee

cc:  
Daniel Mateo, HNBA National President-Elect