



*35th Anniversary*

## HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

P.O. Box 1011 | Washington, D.C. 20013-1011

[www.hbadc.org](http://www.hbadc.org)

July 11, 2012

*Via First Class Mail*

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

### **Re: Deferred Action Policy**

Dear Madame Secretary:

On behalf of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia ("HBA-DC"), we write to commend you for issuing the new policy announced on June 15, 2012, providing deferred action to certain undocumented youth. As you well know, many young people who were brought to the United States as young children do not present a risk to national security or public safety, but nonetheless, face the constant threat of separation from their families and deportation to a country they barely remember.

This important policy shift will provide much-needed security and encouragement to our nation's youth. It will give them a chance to live up to their fullest potential and contribute to the economic growth of our country. Some of these "DREAMers" were educated here; some served in our military. They should be permitted to pursue their dreams where they call home. As an organization that exists, in part, to promote equal justice and opportunity for all Hispanics, the HBA-DC praises the courage and leadership behind this important step towards a more just nation.

The HBA-DC is a non-profit organization established in the District of Columbia in 1977 and our membership includes several hundred lawyers practicing in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, Latino students attending law schools, and other non-lawyers who join as associate members. The HBA-DC is affiliated with the Hispanic National Bar Association. We thank you for your leadership and commitment to justice and fairness in promulgating this new policy on deferred action.

Very truly yours,

Eissa Villaseñor, Chairperson  
Legislative & Policy Issues Committee