



## **HBA-DC Denounces White House's Response to White Supremacist March in Charlottesville**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia issues the following statement in response to the events in Charlottesville, Virginia this past weekend.

In response to the city of Charlottesville's decision to remove a statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, a gang of protesters that included neo-Nazis and white supremacists marched, torches in hand, through the University of Virginia. The following day neo-Nazis and white supremacists gathered and clashed with counter-protesters. Emboldened by the public display of hate and intolerance, a self-identified neo-Nazi drove a car through primarily peaceful counter-protestors, leaving one counter-protestor dead and seriously injuring 19 others.

For many of us, the gravity of this weekend's events in Charlottesville is still too fresh to be fully understood. However, it is clear that the President's failure to denounce the attack for what it was—an act of violence in support of a racist ideology—is profoundly disappointing and divisive. The President, a man who claims to be a unifier, took two full days to reject the ideological underpinnings that motivated the hate-inspired attack. Yesterday, the President re-affirmed his position by placing blame on “both sides,” refusing to condemn hate and prejudice.

The President is either being willfully blind to the facts and circumstances of this one-sided tragedy or is providing not-so-subtle support for this violent demonstration of hate. Immediate and strong denunciations of the President's woefully inadequate statements in response to the events have been echoing from all corners of the country. Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Paul Ryan (R-WI) tweeted yesterday, “We must be clear. White supremacy is repulsive. This bigotry is counter to all this country stands for. There can be no moral ambiguity.”

HBA-DC adds its voice to the chorus of Americans who are standing up for justice and equality. HBA-DC President Ben Hernández-Stern stated, “White nationalists and neo-Nazis are emboldened by a White House that has refused to clearly and unequivocally denounce their ideology. People with this ideology are scared that our future is made up of a coalition of people from all ethnicities, races, religions, and across genders. The President should be uniting all Americans because our future is built on the success of our nation's diverse coalition and shared values.”

HBA-DC extends its support and resources to our neighbors in Virginia and categorically affirms that white supremacy, neo-Nazi fascism, and anti-Semitism has no place in America, a nation founded on justice, liberty, and equality. Siempre adelante ni un paso atrás.

### **About the HBA-DC**

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, voluntary legal association representing the interests of Hispanic attorneys, judges, law professors, law students, and legal professionals within the greater Washington, D.C. area. Its mission is promoting the professional development of Hispanic lawyers and law students; promoting equal justice and opportunities for all Hispanics; and promoting the appointment of Hispanics to leadership positions in Federal, state, and local governments, in the judiciary, and in other leadership positions. For more information visit <http://www.hbadc.org>.

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