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**HBA-DC President on Congressman Paul Gosar’s Comments and Threats:
“Asylum Seekers Have the Legal Right to an Attorney”**

(Washington, DC – May 17, 2018) – Today, Richard Rodriguez, President of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC), released the following statement in response to Congressman Paul Gosar’s (R-AZ-04) call to disbar all attorneys assisting migrant clients with asylum claims.

“Refugees seeking asylum have the unequivocal right to be represented by an attorney under U.S. law, pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act,” said HBA-DC President Rodriguez. “Refugees seeking asylum are fleeing from rampant violence, including high murder rates in their native countries, and arriving in this country to seek refuge. The legal process for filing asylum claims is complex and overwhelming, but a person’s chances of winning a claim is far greater with legal assistance. Congressman Gosar’s comments and threats are offensive, dangerous, and betray a misunderstanding of American law. Attorneys providing services to the most vulnerable among us should be lauded, not threatened, as they are ensuring that refugees get the due process that is the promise of the United States.”

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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