

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1545

Recognizing October 15, 2024, as the day to honor the diaspora of Hispanic culture, and the representation of Hispanics in the legal profession and the judiciary.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 15, 2024

Mr. SOTO (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CORREA, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Recognizing October 15, 2024, as the day to honor the diaspora of Hispanic culture, and the representation of Hispanics in the legal profession and the judiciary.

Whereas the United States celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month every year during September and October to recognize and honor the achievements and contributions from people of the Hispanic diaspora throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas Hispanics represent a diverse and heterogeneous racial, ethnic, and cultural group, with members hailing from many countries, including North America, Central

America, South America, the Caribbean, and Spain, and representing all variations on the spectrum of race;

Whereas Hispanics are the fastest growing community living in the United States, making up 19.5 percent of the United States population;

Whereas Hispanics contribute to the society of the United States through working in many industries, including the legal profession;

Whereas some Hispanic lawyers are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of State and Federal Government, including the Supreme Court of the United States, Cabinet-level positions, the United States Senate, and the United States House of Representatives;

Whereas 13.7 percent of law students identify as Hispanic;

Whereas there are 5.9 percent Hispanic lawyers, judges, and related workers, of the estimated 1,166,625 total lawyers, judges, and related workers, nationwide;

Whereas, in 2022, 3 percent of partners at law firms were Hispanic lawyers;

Whereas 11.2 percent of the 76,000 judges, magistrates, and other judicial workers employed in the United States are Hispanic;

Whereas, as of September 15, 2023, 14 of 172 active circuit court judges were Hispanic, of whom 8 were men and 6 were women, and as of the same date, of the 19 Hispanic men ever appointed as a circuit court judge, 8 were serving as an active judge; in contrast, of the 7 Hispanic women ever appointed as a circuit court judge, 6 were serving as an active judge;

Whereas the first Hispanic judge appointed to the Federal bench was the Honorable Reynaldo G. Garza in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy;

Whereas President Jimmy Carter appointed 16 Hispanic judges to the bench, including the Honorable Reynaldo G. Garza to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals;

Whereas President Ronald Reagan appointed 14 Hispanic judges during his Presidency;

Whereas President William J. Clinton appointed 25 Hispanic judges during his Presidency;

Whereas President George W. Bush appointed 30 Hispanic judges during his Presidency;

Whereas President Barack Obama appointed 37 Hispanic judges during his terms;

Whereas President Joseph Biden has appointed 35 Hispanic judges during his term;

Whereas, of the 40 circuit court nominees confirmed as of February 15, 2024, during the Biden Presidency, 7 were Hispanic;

Whereas, as of September 15, 2023, President Biden has appointed the third-greatest number of Hispanic district court judges, with a total of 22, and additionally, half of President Biden's Hispanic district court appointees have been women, specifically, 14 (64 percent) of 22 appointees;

Whereas Hispanics like the Honorable Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the first Puerto Rican woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court in 2009, worked her way up the judicial system;

Whereas Hispanic lawyers and judges have been frequently recognized as trailblazers;

Whereas there have been initiatives created by national organizations to address the lack of Hispanic/Latino representation among United States law school professors and administrators as well as the shortage of professional development resources specifically for Hispanic/Latino professors, deans, and other administrators;

Whereas the success of Hispanic lawyers and judges has been championed by national organizations like UnidosUS, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), the National Association for Law Placement (NALP), the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), LatinoJustice PRLDEF, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, and various other organizations;

Whereas Hispanic representation in the legal profession has continued to influence the work of legal scholars across the United States;

Whereas Manuel Ruiz is honored as the first Hispanic attorney to argue before the United States Supreme Court in *Buck v. California*, 1951;

Whereas the United States should continue to invest in the future of Hispanics to address the barriers that lead to becoming lawyers and judges; and

Whereas recognizing Hispanic lawyers will bring awareness toward increasing the diversity within the legal industry, reflecting the United States population: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) recognizes, celebrates, and honors the suc-
2 cess of Hispanic lawyers and judges and recognizes
3 their past, present, and future contributions to the
4 United States; and

5 (2) supports the goals of increasing the rep-
6 resentation of Hispanics in the legal profession and
7 the State and Federal courts to ensure that the rep-
8 resentation of Hispanics in the legal profession is re-
9 flective of the Hispanic population in the country.

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