



January 30, 2017

Statement In Opposition to President Trump's Executive Orders

Last week, President Trump issued executive orders compelling the completion of a wall between this country and Mexico; ending so-called sanctuary cities; banning refugee entry into the United States; and halting all travel into this country by non-U.S. citizens from seven Muslim dominated states, refugee or otherwise. Los Abogados steadfastly opposes these orders.

For too long, Latin American immigrants have been demonized and characterized by the President as drug-smugglers, criminals, and rapists. President Trump's executive orders to complete a wall between the United States and Mexico, and to end sanctuary cities only furthers the unjust and inappropriate categorizations of Latinos in this country. From time to time in its past, the United States has viewed immigrants through a negative lens. But history has proven that our strength as a Nation comes from the immigrant spirit seeking opportunity and success. The President's wall expels this spirit and inflames hatred and fear toward those seeking the American Dream. Yet, Latinos will not be deterred. Los Abogados thus calls on the Congress of the United States to stand true to our Nation's principles: it must prevent President Trump from continuing his ill-fated pursuits of building a wall and misappropriating Federal and local resources to end sanctuary cities.

Additionally, Los Abogados cannot stand silent on President Trump's executive order shutting the borders to refugees and others from seven largely Muslim countries. This act is un-American and abhorrent. Our country's very existence is rooted in those seeking freedom from religious persecution. Attributing criminal activity to a person based on his or her country of origin is the same type of repugnant behavior being applied to Latinos by this administration. Los Abogados supports the lawsuits filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and others challenging President Trump's ban on travel to the United States. To that end, we stand ready to offer whatever assistance we can in these matters.

Los Abogados is Arizona's Hispanic Bar Association. Founded in 1976 and incorporated in 1988, members of Los Abogados include private and public attorneys, judges, businesspeople, paralegals, and law students. Members practice throughout Arizona and presently serve as officers and directors of county, state, and federal bar associations. The mission of Los Abogados is to enhance the legal profession by promoting diversity, improving the quality and administration of legal services, encouraging education in the Latino community, supporting the just application of Civil Rights, and advocating for the Latino community. Los Abogados is an affiliate of the National Hispanic Bar Association.

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