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Hispanic Bars Laud Appointment of Judge Cruz to the Court of Appeals

Los Abogados Hispanic Bar Association (Los Abogados) and the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) extend our congratulations to the Honorable Judge Maria Elena Cruz, whose appointment to the Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One by Governor Doug Ducey was announced last week. Judge Cruz's appointment was vital to preventing the further decline of already drastically low diversity numbers among Arizona's judiciary.

"Despite making up over 30 percent of Arizona's total population, Hispanics represent less than 10 percent of Arizona's judiciary. We must be mindful of this disparity, not only because the Arizona Constitution demands it, but because a diverse court is a necessity of justice," said Los Abogados President, Jason Barraza.

Judge Cruz was the Presiding Judge of the Yuma County Superior Court, a leader in the Arizona Judges Association, and received the endorsement of the HNBA to be appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals. Los Abogados and the HNBA commend Governor Doug Ducey for the appointment of Judge Cruz, whose wealth of knowledge and experiences, as well as her mastery of the law, will be a welcome addition to Arizona's appellate court.

Jason Barraza
Los Abogados President

Freddy Saavedra
HNBA Region XIV President

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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