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PRESS RELEASE

**LONG ISLAND HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION SPEAKS OUT AGAINST ARIZONA'S
RECENTLY ENACTED IMMIGRATION LAW**

July 2, 2010 - Miller Place, New York - We, the members of the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association, an organization dedicated to jurisprudence and the protection of the Constitutional and civil rights of the Hispanic community in this country, as well as the community at large, join numerous other organizations and groups in strongly opposing Arizona's recently enacted immigration law known as SB 1070, and the proposed legislation in Arizona to deny children born in the United States to undocumented parents their rightful citizenship.

The Federal government is specifically and uniquely empowered to regulate immigration law in the United States, pursuant to the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution. The Fourteenth Amendment also guarantees the right to equal treatment under the law and for all persons born in the United States the right of citizenship. We, therefore, have grave concerns about the Constitutionality of these legislative initiatives. In addition, these initiatives create the serious potential for the wrongful detention of legal residents; for racial profiling; for religious and charitable organizations to limit their essential services to undocumented workers out of fear of being subjected to prosecution or civil lawsuits; and for undocumented workers to avoid coming forward with information to aid in criminal prosecutions, of which they are not a target, out of fear of being arrested themselves.

There is no doubt that our immigration system is in need of reform, but legislation like that enacted and proposed in Arizona are, at best, a misguided overreaction to a broken system. Without comprehensive immigration reform, we will continue to see laws like SB 1070 cropping up across the country. State and local governments, as we have even seen here on Long Island, will also implement their own immigration policies in the vacuum of government inaction. Notably, many state and local statutes and ordinances attempting to address these issues have been struck down by the federal courts as unconstitutional.

As this debate continues, the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association strongly encourages others to avoid the harsh rhetoric that all too often arises out of issues such as this one. Furthermore, we strongly urge Congress and the federal government to take swift and meaningful steps toward

comprehensive immigration reform. It is only through such reform that we can properly address the legitimate concerns on all sides of these issues.