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NEWS RELEASE

Latino Lawyers Recognize The Honorable L. Felipe Restrepo For His Contributions To The Pennsylvania Legal Community

On Wednesday, April 14, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., the Hispanic Bar Association of Pennsylvania (HBA) will honor L. Felipe Restrepo, United States Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, by awarding him the HBA's ninth annual *La Justicia* award. The *La Justicia* award recognizes Judge Restrepo's public service as a federal judge and his dedication to the Pennsylvania Latino community through his activities on behalf of the indigent, his work as a law professor, and his mentoring of junior lawyers.

Judge Restrepo has served with distinction as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania since his appointment in June 2006, where he handles a wide variety of criminal and civil cases. Judge Restrepo is also active in the Eastern District's reentry court, which is an innovative program used to combat recidivism among Philadelphia residents leaving federal prison who are at risk of committing another crime. Participants in the reentry court program attend court as a group, and discuss their accomplishments and challenges. Participants who successfully complete the program receive a reduction in their term of supervised release.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Restrepo, was a highly-regarded Philadelphia attorney and founding member of the firm of Krasner & Restrepo, concentrating in criminal defense and civil rights litigation. Before forming his law firm, he served as an assistant federal defender with the Community Federal Defender for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and an assistant defender for the Defender Association of Philadelphia. He is an adjunct professor at Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law, was an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School from 1997-2009 where he was appointed the Irving R. Segal Lecturer in advocacy, and has taught with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy in regional and national programs since 1991. Judge Restrepo has been active in the legal profession as a lecturer at seminars sponsored by the Administrative Offices of the United States Courts, the Philadelphia Bar Association, and the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and has written articles appearing in the *Legal Intelligencer*, the *National Law Journal*, and the *American Bar Association's Criminal Justice* magazine.

Born in Medellin, Colombia in 1959, Judge Restrepo was sworn in as a United States citizen on September 7, 1993. He received a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1981 and a J.D. from Tulane Law School in 1986. Throughout his career, Judge Restrepo has stood out as an exceptional role model for community involvement and civic participation. He has devoted his time and expertise to a variety of boards and commissions, including the Russell Byers Charter School Board of Trustees, the North Philadelphia Health System Board of Governors, the Philadelphia Bar Association's Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention, and the Board of Directors of the Defender Association of Philadelphia. Judge Restrepo has also

served on the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Bar Association and was President of the HBA from 1993 to 1994.

Judge Restrepo's professional excellence and dedication to serving his community have been commended by the many groups that have presented him with much well-deserved recognition. In 1995, Judge Restrepo received a New American/New Freedom Committee Award from the Balch Institute in Philadelphia in Appreciation for Outstanding Services to the Greater Philadelphia Community and Nation. In 2000, he was awarded the Cesare Beccaria Award by the Criminal Law section of the Philadelphia Bar Association and the Justinian Law Society for his commitment to criminal justice issues and teaching services. In 2004, Judge Restrepo received the Gideon Award from Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law for demonstrating a commitment to ensuring the indigent are afforded competent counsel.

The HBA takes great pride in Judge Restrepo's many professional achievements. As an exemplary member of the Philadelphia legal community, Judge Restrepo has advanced the goal of increasing diversity in the federal judiciary, mentored and inspired successive classes of minority attorneys, and opened doors for numerous members of the Pennsylvania Latino community simply by virtue of his outstanding professional career and accomplishments.

Earlier in 2010, the HBA sent letters to U.S. Senators Arlen Specter and Robert P. Casey, Jr. encouraging them to recommend that President Barack Obama nominate Judge Restrepo to fill the current vacancy on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

For more information about the HBA's ninth annual *La Justicia* award ceremony, please contact HBA President Diana P. Cortes, Esq. at 215-963-5870 or at dcortes@morganlewis.com.

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