

By: Capelo

H.R. No. 733

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Hispanic Issues Section of the State Bar of
2 Texas will observe the 25th anniversary of its organizational
3 meeting at the annual state bar gathering in 2004, which will be
4 held in San Antonio, the city where the section was founded; and

5 WHEREAS, It is fitting to recall the history of the founding
6 of the Hispanic Issues Section, formerly known as the Section on
7 Concerns of the Spanish Speaking Community of Texas, the first
8 state bar section organized specifically for the study of issues
9 affecting a particular ethnic community; and

10 WHEREAS, Organizational efforts began with a meeting of the
11 Chicano Bar Association of South Texas held in Alice in 1978 and led
12 by its president, Manuel Bañales, now a judge of the 105th District
13 Court; James W. Wray, the state bar director of the Eleventh Bar
14 District, offered to sponsor the organization of a section
15 dedicated to focusing the legal community's attention on issues
16 affecting the Spanish-speaking community; an organizational
17 committee was recruited, met in San Antonio, and elected Frank
18 Herrera of the Alamo City as chair; and

19 WHEREAS, The Mexican American Legislative Caucus of the Texas
20 House of Representatives supported the section; caucus chair State
21 Representative Paul Moreno of El Paso, and State Representatives
22 Irma Rangel of Kingsville, Matt Garcia of San Antonio, and Melchor
23 Chavez of Brownsville, with Frank Herrera, Manuel Bañales, and Jose
24 Rodriguez, who succeeded Mr. Bañales as president of the Chicano

1 Bar Association of South Texas, appeared at the January 1979
2 meeting of the State Bar of Texas board to urge adoption of the
3 motion to establish the section, and the motion was approved
4 unanimously; and

5 WHEREAS, The Hispanic Issues Section was organized that year
6 at the annual meeting of the State Bar of Texas, held in San
7 Antonio; Pete Torres, Jr., of that city was chosen as its first
8 chair; and

9 WHEREAS, By endorsing the Hispanic Issues Section, the State
10 Bar of Texas took a giant step toward addressing a greater variety
11 of issues, including those affecting persons who may have limited
12 access to the legal community and limited ability to influence the
13 legal processes that affect their daily lives; today, the state bar
14 includes numerous sections devoted to societal issues, making it of
15 greater service to its members and to the people of Texas; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
18 Legislature hereby recognize the Hispanic Issues Section of the
19 State Bar of Texas on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the
20 section's organizational meeting, to be observed at the annual
21 meeting of the state bar in 2004 in San Antonio; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 presented to Maria Luisa "Lulu" Flores, chair of the Hispanic
24 Issues Section of the State Bar of Texas, for presentation to its
25 members.