

By: Zaffirini

S.R. No. 137

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Hispanic judges from across the state are gathering in Austin on February 25, 2025, in celebration of Texas Hispanic Judges' Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, The Hispanic population of Texas is at least 40 percent, yet Hispanic judges account for only 16 percent of the state's judiciary; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic judges have contributed significantly to justice in the State of Texas, as exemplified by trailblazers Reynaldo Garza, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; Pete Benavides, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; Raul Gonzalez, Texas Supreme Court; Eva Guzman, Texas Supreme Court; Elsa Alcalá, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals; Linda Yañez, Thirteenth Court of Appeals; Carlos Cadena, Fourth Court of Appeals; and Alma Lopez, Fourth Court of Appeals, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, In collaboration with the Hispanic Issues Section of the State Bar of Texas, Hispanic judges formed the first statewide organization with a mission of advancing current and future Hispanic judges, promoting integrity and excellence in the judiciary, and recognizing their contributions to the Texas judicial system; and

WHEREAS, Advancing equal justice is the mission of all judges, and the more than 500 Hispanic individuals who currently serve on courts across the state exemplify the highest standards

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of judicial conduct and demonstrate their dedication to the people of Texas through their public service on and off the bench, which is truly an inspiration to us all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby recognize February 25, 2025, as Texas Hispanic Judges' Day at the State Capitol, commend Hispanic judges of Texas for their commitment to equal justice under the law, and extend to all those participating in this event sincere best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable visit to Austin.