

NMHBA ISSUE ADVOCACY POLICY

WHEREAS, at times it may be important and appropriate for the New Mexico Hispanic Bar Association (the “NMHBA”) to comment or advance its perspective upon issues within the legal community or the overall broader Hispanic Community; and

WHEREAS, the NMHBA encourages its members and committees to identify timely issues of importance within the legal community and the broader Hispanic community for review and consideration by the NMHBA; and

WHEREAS, a manageable and understandable policy is necessary to ensure that positions or comments by the NMHBA represent a reasonable perspective approved by a majority of NMHBA Board of Directors; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the NMHBA Board of Directors approves the following procedures for considering requests for letters of support, issue advocacy or support, or policy development relating to community issues:

I. MEMBER SUBMITTED REQUESTS:

I. Minimum Requirements:

A. Any Member may submit a written request that the NMHBA review and consider an issue. Such requests must include the following:

1. Summary of the issue, the type of support requested, and the reasons why NMHBA involvement is important;
2. Brief history, if any, of past relevant NMHBA positions, advocacy, statements, or resolutions, as well those of other Bar Associations, Legislators, Community Organizations, and other third parties if known.

3. List of other Legislators, Bar Organizations, Community Organizations, and other third parties currently supporting the issue, effort, or cause.
4. Contact information for Legislator, Bar Organization, Community Organization, or other third party championing the issue, effort, or cause.
5. Summary of known opposition to the position requested.
6. Attachment of reference documents or draft legislation, where appropriate.
7. Attachment of, or links to any relevant media coverage of the issue whether positive or negative.

B. Timing. A minimum of two weeks lead time is necessary for review of advocacy issues, efforts, or causes. If expedited review is requested, clear and compelling reasons why the issued should be considered in less than two weeks and the requested deadline must be included with the request.

II. Advocacy Committee Procedures and Protocol

A. Upon receiving a request from an NMHBA Member(s) to consider an issue, effort, or cause, the Advocacy Committee shall review the request taking into consideration the following:

1. Breadth and strength of NMHBA interest;
2. Importance to Hispanic attorneys;
3. Importance to legal community in general;
4. Opportunity for the NMHBA to make an impact;

5. Issue, effort, or cause's potential for achievement and/or success;
6. Timeliness of issue;
7. Amount of information known about the issue, effort, or cause; and
8. Importance to the administration of justice.

NOTE: The order of the above factors does not indicate their priority. Moreover, the Advocacy committee may consider any additional information that is brought to its attention when considering any given issue, effort, or cause. In weighing these factors, a decision or recommendation shall be made based on the totality of these factors.

B. The Advocacy Committee may decide to develop a draft position statement, letter of support, press release or other material relevant to the request, or take no action upon the request. If a draft position has been approved by a majority of the Advocacy Committee members, the Advocacy Committee Chair shall submit it to the Executive Committee of the NMHBA for a vote. The NMHBA's official position is approved and adopted only upon approval by the Executive Committee.

C. If a majority of the Executive Board votes in favor of supporting the issue, effort, or cause, the President shall notify the requestor and all relevant parties that the NMHBA will be supporting the issue, effort, or cause.

This NMHBA Issue Advocacy Policy was approved and adopted by the NMHBA Board of Directors on the 5th day of May, 2015.

ATTEST

/s/ Denise M. Chanez – Electronically Signed
NMHBA President

/s/ Darren Cordova – Electronically Signed
NMHBA Secretary