



MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

March 29, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Endorsement of Lillian "Lee" Llambelis for U.S. Department of Justice Director of Community Relations Service

Dear Mr. President,

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda submits this letter to endorse Lillian "Lee" Llambelis for the position of Director of the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS).

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA) is a premier coalition of over 40 leading national Hispanic civil rights and public policy organizations. Collectively, NHLA leads the advocacy behind the pressing civil rights and policy issues impacting the 60 million Latinos living in the United States. NHLA strives to increase Latino visibility and leverages its efforts to build a stronger Latino influence in our country's affairs.

Ms. Llambelis currently serves as the Deputy Commissioner for Community Partnerships and STEAM Initiatives at the NYC Department of Design and Construction. Previously, she was the Special Assistant District Attorney for Community Affairs at the New York County District Attorney's Office, and Director of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs for the NYS Attorney General's Office. She also served as Litigation Director for the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (LatinoJustice PRLDEF) where she engaged in litigation, advocacy and policy development on civil rights issues affecting Latinos in the country. Her background demonstrates excellence in a variety of settings including law enforcement, education, and community affairs.

As an experienced prosecutor, effective communicator, and advocate, Ms. Llambelis would be a valuable addition to the Department of Justice. She has demonstrable communication and leadership skills and has worked exceptionally well with diverse communities. Along with her direct experience in addressing discrimination and injustice, Ms. Llambelis will be an excellent candidate to head the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice.

Please have your staff contact the NHLA Chair and Civil Rights Committee Co-Chair Thomas Saenz, MALDEF, at tsaenz@maldef.org or Civil Rights Committee Co-Chair Juan Cartagena,

- Alianza Americas
American G.I. Forum
ASPIRA Association
AVANCE Inc.
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
Farmworker Justice
Green Latinos
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities
Hispanic Federation
Hispanic National Bar Association
Hispanics in Philanthropy
Inter-University Program for Latino Research
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
League of United Latin American Citizens
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
Mi Familia Vota
NALEO Education Fund
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives
National Association of Latino Arts and Culture
National Association of Latino Independent Producers
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
National Day Laborer Organizing Network
National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National Latinx Psychological Association
Presente.org
SER Jobs for Progress National
Southwest Voter Registration Education Project
U.S.- Mexico Foundation
UnidosUS
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
United States Hispanic Leadership Institute
United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
Voto Latino

LatinoJustice PRLDEF, at jcartagena@latinojustice.org, if you have any questions about NHLA's position regarding this recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Saenz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T'.

Thomas A. Saenz
Chair, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda
NHLA Civil Rights Committee Co-Chair
President & General Counsel
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan Cartagena". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

Juan Cartagena
NHLA Civil Rights Committee Co-Chair
President & General Counsel
LatinoJustice PRLDEF