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NO. 200742

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday June 21, 2007

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**EL PASO COUNTY ATTORNEY TO RECEIVE THE
REYNALDO GARZA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

On Friday June 22, 2007, the State Bar of Texas Hispanic Issues Section will present the Reynaldo Garza Lifetime Achievement Award to the El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez, during a ceremony to be held in San Antonio, TX.

Every year the Hispanic Issues Section of the Texas State Bar gives the award to “individuals who have demonstrated a long commitment and made great achievement in addressing concerns and issues affecting the Spanish speaking community, and have worked toward advancing diversity and access to justice in the practice of law”. The award is named after the Honorable Reynaldo G. Garza, the country’s first Mexican American federal judge appointed in 1961 to the Southern District Court by President John F. Kennedy.

County Attorney Rodríguez is being recognized for his many contributions to advance the civil rights of Hispanics and immigrants in the United States.

Rodríguez worked for ten (10) years as a staff attorney and director of the farm worker program of Texas Rural Legal Aid, Inc., a statewide legal services program, litigating matters involving labor and employment, housing, and civil rights.

He is also a board member of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), a national organization that seeks to protect the civil rights of Latinos, and co- chair of the U.S./Mexico Border and Immigration Task Force, an organization working on comprehensive immigration reform.

He is a former board member of the El Paso Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services, and a founder and former chair of the State Bar of Texas Hispanic Issues Section, and of the El Paso Mexican American Bar Association. He is currently the chair of the Healthcare Committee of the Texas Border Coalition, an organization advocating for more state resources for border communities.

The Reynaldo Garza Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented during a reception to be held on Friday June 22 at 5:30 PM, at the *San Antonio Marriot Rivercenter* (Conference Room #1) in San Antonio, TX.