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**Contact:** Maria Clara Samaniego  
**Phone Number:** 703-527-6007  
**Email:** [Communications@nhli.org](mailto:Communications@nhli.org)  
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**THE NATIONAL HISPANA LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE WELCOMES NEW  
CHAIRWOMAN AND BOARD OFFICERS**

Washington, D.C. -- The National Hispana Leadership Institute (NHLI) announces Cecelia M. Espenoza as its new Chairwoman. Ms. Espenoza is a 2003 NHLI Executive Leadership Program (ELP) graduate and currently serves as Senior Associate General Counsel at the Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review.

Ms. Espenoza graduated with both a B.A. and J.D. from the University of Utah. She was the second Latina admitted to the bar in Utah in 1982 and she is an active member in the community having served on various boards including Latinas Leading Tomorrow, Northern Virginia Program Hispanic Youth Symposium, and Governor Kaine's Virginia Latino Advisory Commission, among others.

Throughout her career, Ms. Espenoza has taught immigration law and trial advocacy as an associate professor of law at St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas, as well as supervising law students in the Immigration Clinic at St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice. Ms. Espenoza also taught immigration law, criminal law, and evidence as an assistant professor of law at the University of Denver College of Law in Denver, Colorado. She is published in various law journals.

"It is an honor to have been elected to this position. I am excited to bring my passion and experience to such a great organization. The Board is going to work diligently to ensure that NHLI's mission continues to be realized," said Cecelia Espenoza, Chairwoman.

Other officer position changes include Virginia Gonzales (ELP '07) as Vice-Chair, Dr. Catalina Garcia (ELP '89) as Treasurer and Marcela Bailey (ELP '10) as Secretary. Additional Board members include Carmen Bauza, Marieli Colon-Padilla (ELP '06) as immediate- past chair, Analco Gonzalez, Ofelia Melendez-Kumpf, and Maria Elena Toraño (founder).

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The National Hispana Leadership Institute (NHLI) is a national leadership development organization focused on Latina leaders. Founded in 1987, NHLI has trained and empowered more than 10,000 Latina leaders from the public and private sectors who have been appointed to leadership positions in government, corporate America, nonprofits, foundations and entrepreneurs. NHLI's mission is to develop Hispanas as ethical leaders through training, professional development, relationship building, and community activism. For more information, visit [www.nhli.org](http://www.nhli.org).