



Contact: Chris Cosentino
Campbell Lewis Communications
Tel (212) 995-8058
Cell. (917) 519-6300
chris@campbelllewis.com

HNMA NAMES CHAMPIONS OF HISPANIC HOMEOWNERSHIP

--Cites Individuals in San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange Counties for Increasing Homeownership in the Hispanic Community—

San Diego, CA [July 11th, 2007]--The Hispanic National Mortgage Association (HNMA), an organization focused on increasing homeownership opportunities within the Hispanic community, announced today the winners of its first ever Hispanic Homeownership awards.

The awards recognize professionals who have used their skills, expertise and business acumen to increase Homeownership among Hispanics. According to Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data, Hispanic homeownership rates lag significantly behind non-Hispanic whites (49 percent versus 76 percent) and income disparity between the two groups doesn't fully explain the 27 percent gap. HNMA created the awards to recognize those playing a significant role in addressing this disparity.

"As the Hispanic population in this country continues to grow at a pace faster than the non-Hispanic population, meeting the needs of this community is an increasingly important challenge and opportunity," said Luis Maizel, Chairman of HNMA, "Our mission at HNMA is to increase Homeownership in the Hispanic market and our award recipients have each, through their own activities, contributed to this goal."

More than 60 real estate and mortgage professionals took a well-deserved mid-day break to recognize 20 of their colleagues. The Inland Empire event at the New York Grill in Ontario brought together industry and community leaders.



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Winners at the inaugural ceremony (Ontario, California):

Business & Social Responsibility Category

- Bodegas Latinas (introducing an innovative employer-assisted homeownership program)
- Law Offices of J. Alcorn (promoting homeownership awareness among recent immigrants)

Real Estate Category (Outstanding Service)

- Amanda Gonzalez, Stewart Title
- Johnny Perez, Century 21 King Realtors
- Leonor Arias, Bona Real Estate
- Maria Jimenez, Stewart Title

Homeownership Advocacy Category

- Delphina R.M. Hooks, Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services
- Gabriel Chavez, Ontario Planning Commission
- Gilbert Pacheco, NAHREP / Inland Empire Chapter
- Vilma Mercado, Neighborhood Housing Services of the Inland Empire

Finance Category (Outstanding Service)

- Angel Tirre, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
- Diana Lopez, The Mortgage Guild
- Don Campbell, American Home Mortgage
- Emma Castellano, Mortgage Choice
- Jackie Sanchez, Countrywide
- Javier De La Torre, Chase
- Lydia Castrellon, Mortgage Solutions
- Noemi Montes, Patrimon Mortgage
- Patricio Gonzalez, Washington Mutual
- Robert Alvarez, Ilumina Mortgage
- Serafin Hurtado, American Home Mortgage
- Victor Leos, GMI
- Randy Colaso, South Pacific Financial



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The Reverend Luis Cortés, Jr. president and CEO of Esperanza USA, a network of Hispanic Christians, churches, and ministries committed to raising awareness and identifying resources that strengthen the Hispanic community and a member of HNMA’s board of advisors, said, “There are many business successes in the Hispanic community. However those who leverage that success and share their hard learned expertise with the people still striving to succeed are more than business successes, they are true Community leaders.”

Gary Acosta, co-founder and ex-Chairman of the board for the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP), and a member of the HNMA Board of Advisors added, “This is a multifaceted industry, from originators to appraisers to title companies and the secondary market. However, in any business, and especially when dealing with somebody’s home, being sensitive to customer needs is vitally important. It is important to recognize those who care and do it well.”

Leonardo Simpson, co-founder and Managing Director of HNMA, commented on the event: “Having community leaders and top representatives of the mortgage and real estate industry together at this event allows each group to share and hear ideas and insights from a different point of view. We believe this sort of cross pollination benefits everyone involved in both the long and short term.”

About The Hispanic National Mortgage Association (HNMA)

HNMA is a private, for-profit company providing a variety of services to the mortgage industry with the mission of increasing homeownership opportunities within the Hispanic community. HNMA currently has three business divisions: HNMA Funding Company, a correspondent investor that offers innovative loan programs focused on Hispanic, immigrant and other underserved communities; Ilumina Mortgage, a Hispanic-centric retail lending operation that is a joint venture between Wells Fargo Home Mortgage and HNMA; and HNMA’s R&D unit focused on the development of tools to measure Hispanic and other nontraditional borrower’s creditworthiness more accurately and more efficiently. For more information, please visit www.hnma.com; www.iluminamortgage.com; www.hnmafunding.com.



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Leonardo Simpser (Executive Director of HNMA)



Honorable Paul Leon (Mayor of Ontario); Ron Jauregui (SVP, Community Alliances, HNMA)



Honorable Paul Leon (Mayor of Ontario)



Theresa Cammiling (HUD Field Director, Los Angeles)



Antonio Blanchet (Vice President of Chivas USA)



Luis Maizel (Chairman, HNMA)



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Luis Maizel (Chairman, HNMA); Real Estate Category Award Recipients, Johnny Perez (Century 21 King Realtors), Leonor Arias (Bona Real Estate), Amanda Gonzalez (Stewart Title); Gilbert Pacheco (NAHREP/Inland Empire Chapter President)



Ron Jauregui (SVP, Community Alliances, HNMA)



Luis Maizel (Chairman, HNMA); Business & Social Responsibility Category Award Recipients, Angie Navarro (Law Offices of J. Alcorn), Jose Aguayo (HR Director, Bodegas Latinas); Antonio Blanchet (Vice President, Chivas USA)



Luis Maizel (Chairman, HNMA); Finance Category Award Recipients, Don Campbell (AHM), Jackie Sanchez (Countrywide), Emma Castellano (Mortgage Choice), Diana Lopez (The Mortgage Guild), Javier De La Torre (Chase), Angel Tirre (Wells Fargo); Rosa Dalia Hernandez (EM Manager, MGIC)



Homeownership Advocacy Category Award Recipients, Gil Pacheco (Nahrep Inland Empire Chapter President), Delphina Hooks (Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services), Vilma Mercado (Neighborhood Housing Services of Inland Empire); Luis Maizel (Chairman, HNMA); Theresa Camming (Field Director, HUD LA)



Luis Maizel (Chairman, HNMA); Finance Category Award Recipients, Randy Colaso (S.Pacific Financial), Victor Leos (GMI); Serafin Hurtado (AHM), Robert Alvarez (Ilumina), Patricio Gonzalez (WaMu), Lydia Castellon (Mortgage Solutions), Noemi Montes (Patron); Rosa Dalia Hernandez (EM Manager, MGIC)



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Ray Brewer (Director, HUD Santa Ana)



Jack McCurry (JV Manager, Ilumina Mortgage)



Luis Maizel (Chairman, HNMA)



Gilbert Pacheco (NAHREP's Inland empire Chapter President)