

NHMC Announces Internal Reorganization

2009-10-16

Pasadena, CA - Jessica Gonzalez has joined the National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC) as its Policy Counsel. Jessica will be based in Washington, D.C. Inez Gonzalez has been promoted to Executive Vice President and will return to the Pasadena headquarters.

"Jessica's legal expertise in media and telecommunications policy will make an excellent addition to NHMC's team," said Alex Nogales, NHMC President and CEO. "Jessica already knows the stakeholders, the issues and has a history of working closely with NHMC, she will hit the ground running."

The biggest challenge that the NHMC faces in 2010 is its campaign against hate speech. Anti-immigrant sentiment, perpetuated by conservative talk show hosts, has been attributed to an increase in anti-Latino crimes across the nation: a recent FBI report documents that hate crimes against Latinos are up 40% since 2004. Jessica played a key role assisting NHMC to file a petition for inquiry on hate speech with the Federal Communications Commission in January of this year, along with a request to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration asking it to update its 1993 report, "The Role of Telecommunications in Hate Crimes."

Jessica comes to NHMC from Georgetown Law's Institute for Public Representation (IPR). At IPR she represented various non-profit consumer, civil rights and public interest organizations on media and telecommunications issues before the federal agencies, in the courts and on Capitol Hill. Previous to IPR, Jessica was a law clerk at the Media Access Project. She has a LLM degree candidate at Georgetown Law, earned her JD at Southwestern Law School, and her BA in Communication Studies and Spanish from Loyola Marymount University. Jessica acts as co-chair of the Federal Communications Bar Association's Diversity Committee

Inez Gonzalez, no relation to Jessica, will move back to California and help move NHMC's broader agenda forward. "This is a critical time for the Latino community with another tumultuous immigration debate just around the corner," stated Alex Nogales. "Media plays a key role in how we are perceived and how we are treated. Now more than ever we will fight for a fair depiction of our community in the news, on television and in the policy debate. Inez has played a vital role at NHMC and I expect great contributions from Inez in her new capacity as Executive Vice President."

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NHMC National Office | 55 S Grand Avenue, Pasadena CA, 91105
Tel: (626) 792-NHMC (6462) | Fax: (626) 792-6051 | info@nhmc.org