



COMPTROLLER OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
1 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10007-2341
(212) 669-3500

WILLIAM C. THOMPSON, JR.
COMPTROLLER

April 2, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

Although our nation faces many significant obstacles, I am greatly encouraged by your bold vision to address the challenges that are ahead.

One of these challenges is the under-representation of Hispanics within the ranks of our federal judiciary and I respectfully urge your attention to this situation.

The integrity of our judicial system is a cornerstone of our democracy. This integrity depends upon the fairness of our judiciary and also upon how our justice system is perceived by those seeking legal recourse. Diversity in the courts introduces different perspectives in the deliberative process and should mirror the essence of our racially and ethnically diverse nation.

It is time that the federal bench, and specifically the United States Supreme Court, also reflects this diversity.

In the event you are provided an opportunity to appoint a Supreme Court justice, I urge that you strongly consider selecting one of the many extraordinarily talented and accomplished jurists from our country's Latino community. Many of these individuals live and work right here in New York City.

These are historic times. We have an opportunity to pursue the highest principles of fairness and equality and set an example for generations to come.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William C. Thompson, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

William C. Thompson, Jr.