

MEMO FROM THE SCHOOL OF LAW

DATE:

March 7, 1980

TO: Members, Hispanic Advisory Committee
RE: Follow-Up on February 25 meeting
FROM: Victoria S. Diaz

Dear Dr. Garcia:

This is to share some items as a follow-up to our first meeting. First, thank you to Ben Reyes, Armando De Leon, ^{an}Lorenzo Patino and Joaquin Avila for serving as reporters during the meeting. Second, I am enclosing a letter I've written to Ben Civiletti on behalf of the Committee. Pursuant to F.A.C.A. procedures, Lupe Salinas will prepare a report of the meeting, and we will have an opportunity to modify it where appropriate. In the near future, you should also receive a draft of my notes, including our recommendations and requests for information.

Lupe Salinas has suggested that we send him any news items and/or papers relating to Committee issues -- the D.C. and national press do not always cover important items. Please indicate whether you want copies circulated to other members.

In spite of the fact that this was our first time working as a group, I believe that we started well and covered a lot of material. However, I believe we can improve our efficiency by developing specific procedures on meetings, information requests and submission of recommendations and reports. If you have specific ideas, please share them so that we can reach a quick consensus at our next meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity of serving as first chair -- it was an honor and I learned from the experience. I assumed that the election was on an interim basis only and, therefore, would like to recommend that the position be a rotating assignment. I look forward to our next meeting.

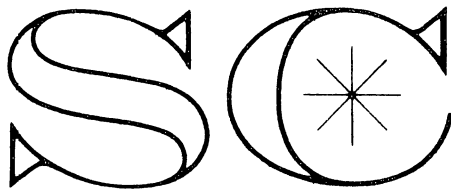
Sincerely,

Victoria S. Diaz

VSD:esm

cc: Mr. Lupe Salinas
Special Assistant to the
Attorney General

Enc.



SCHOOL OF LAW

March 7, 1980

Honorable Benjamin R. Civiletti
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C. 20530

RE: Hispanic Advisory Committee

Dear Mr. Civiletti:

We appreciated meeting and talking with you on the afternoon of February 25. On behalf of the Committee, I wish to thank you and your staff for the time and work spent on our first meeting as a formal advisory group. In particular, we wish to express our appreciation to Mr. Lupe Salinas, Mr. Abbe Lowell, Mr. Emilio Abeyta and Mr. Bill Robie for their work in assisting the Committee.

It is our sincere hope that Hispanic communities will have better access to the Department of Justice through the Hispanic Advisory Committee which your office has established. We believe this can be accomplished only if the Committee is given an adequate opportunity to prepare itself to help you assess the needs of our communities and to understand the workings of the Justice Department. However, at this point, several factors impair our ability in this regard, including the delay in establishing the Committee, the fact that some of us are unfamiliar with the Justice Department and the fact that some of us are new to one another. We do not believe these are insurmountable problems.

Nonetheless, for these reasons, we make two requests: first, that, at least during the first year of the Committee's life, we meet every two months, instead of every three; and, second, that we continue setting the full day meeting on a certain Monday of the month, with the notice of the meeting specifying that the Committee will meet on the preceding Sunday evening to prepare. We believe that these changes will begin to maximize our effectiveness in helping you to assess the needs of our communities and hope that you will agree.

Honorable Benjamin R. Civiletti

March 7, 1980

We look forward to our next meeting with you and to learning what actions the Department has undertaken with respect to the recommendations and issues we discussed on February 25. We also look forward to receiving information in response to specific questions we raised. In the meantime, please let us know if there are any issues which you would like us to consider and prepare for our next meeting with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Victoria S. Diaz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Victoria S. Diaz
Interim Chair
Assistant Professor of Law

VSD:csn

cc: Members, Hispanic Advisory Committee
Mr. Lupe Salinas
Mr. Abbe Lowell