



**JOSÉ R. RODRÍGUEZ**  
EL PASO COUNTY ATTORNEY  
500 EAST SAN ANTONIO  
ROOM 503, COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
EL PASO, TEXAS 79901

**NO. 200751**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**For More Information Contact:**  
Elhiu Dominguez  
Public Affairs Officer  
Phone: (915) 546-2016  
Cell: (915) 472-1354  
FAX: (915) 546-2133  
[Elhiu.dominguez@ca.epcounty.com](mailto:Elhiu.dominguez@ca.epcounty.com)

**COUNTY ATTORNEY TO RECEIVE ‘HEROES IN THE FIGHT’  
AWARD IN AUSTIN, TEXAS**

El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez will be among the seven recipients of the “2007 Heroes in the Fight” award to be presented on Wednesday September 12, 2007 by Mental Health America of Texas during a special ceremony to be held in Austin, Texas.

Every year the award is given to individuals and organizations that “demonstrate commitment to the rights of people with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI).” Nominations are submitted by anyone in the community, and every year only seven awards are presented in the state of Texas.

This year El Paso President of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Victor Ortíz nominated County Attorney José R. Rodríguez for being the first County Attorney in the state of Texas to commit an entire unit of his office to advocate on behalf of the rights of people with SMPI. He is also being recognized for establishing the El Paso Interfacility Transfer Task Force, a multi-disciplinary group that coordinates the transfer of people in crisis between institutions such as hospital emergency departments, law enforcement, correctional facilities and psychiatric facilities.

The “Heroes in the Fight” luncheon will be held on Wednesday September 12, at 11:30 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Austin Hotel.

**WHO: County Attorney José R. Rodríguez**

**WHAT: “Heroes in the Fight” Awards Ceremony**

**WHEN: Wednesday September 12, 2007 at 11:30 a.m.**

**WHERE: Hyatt Regency Austin Hotel**

**208 Barton Springs Rd.  
Austin, TX**

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**For more information about the Heroes in the Fight program, please visit the web site at [www.heroesinthefight.org](http://www.heroesinthefight.org).**