



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

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT: Elhiu Dominguez
Public Affairs Officer
Phone: (915) 546-2016
FAX: (915) 546-2133
Elhiu.dominguez@ca.epcounty.com

**EL PASO COUNTY ATTORNEY NAMED
REGION III “GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ADVOCATE”
BY THE U.S. HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

The President of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Michael Barrera, will present the region III “Government Hispanic Business Advocate Award” to El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez, during a ceremony to be held on Thursday September 21, 2006 in Philadelphia, PA.

Every year, throughout its six national regions, the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce honors corporate and government advocates for their contributions to the excellence and growth of Hispanic entrepreneurs.

This year 3 El Pasoans are being honored as winners in Region III, which includes the states of Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas. They are:

- County Attorney José R. Rodríguez, recipient of the “Government Business Advocate” award.
- Cecilia Lavine, recipient of the “Business Woman of the Year” award.
- Steve Sambrano, recipient of the “Hispanic Businessman of the Year” award.

The El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is also being recognized as the Region III “Large Hispanic Chamber of the Year”.

In its monthly official publication, the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce explains that County Attorney José Rodríguez is being recognized for “his many

contributions to promote new businesses in El Paso, including protecting the interests of small business by creating a public awareness campaign around hot check issues, and actually increasing collections for the business community from \$588,319 in 1993, to \$1,863,319 annually”

The publication also states that, “through Mr. Rodriguez’s direct personal involvement in the El Paso Fair Lending Coalition, access to capital has been recognized, as our business community’s #1 need.”

Mr. Rodriguez currently serves on the El Paso Mayor’s Medical Cabinet and is Chairman of the Texas Border Coalition’s Health Committee, in an effort to develop El Paso’s healthcare industry.

About the award he is receiving, Mr. Rodriguez said “to be recognized at the national level is a great honor; I am convinced all local public officials have an obligation to promote business development to help El Paso growth”.

The regional award winners are finalists for the National Hispanic Leadership & Business Excellence Awards and will be recognized at the USHCC 27th Annual Convention & Business Expo at the Town Hall event on Thursday, Sept. 21.

The national winners will be announced at the Awards Gala on Saturday, Sept. 23 at 7:00 PM at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, PA.