

C/O Mrs. Marty S.

# HIDALGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



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May 11, 2007

Honorable J.D. Salinas  
County Judge  
100 E. Cano, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Edinburg, TX 78539

Honorable Hector 'Tito' Palacios  
Commissioner Precinct 2  
301 East State St.  
Pharr, TX 78577

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Commissioner Precinct 1  
1902 Joe Stephens Ave.  
Weslaco, TX 78596

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Commissioner Precinct 3  
P.O. Box 607  
Mission, TX 78572

✓ Honorable Oscar L. Garza, Jr.  
Commissioner Precinct 4  
1102 N. Doolittle Rd.  
Edinburg, TX 78541

**Re: Hidalgo County Lawyers' Lounge**

Dear Judge Salinas and Honorable Commissioners:

This letter is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Hidalgo County Bar Association Board of Directors and its 680 Members. We were notified by Marty Salazar (Purchasing Agent) on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, that the Lawyers' Lounge (recently temporarily closed in order to accommodate the 398<sup>th</sup> District Court while repairs were being done to that courtroom and chambers) probably would not be returned to the HCBA. She informed us that while a final decision had not been made, the Commissioner's Court was strongly leaning towards using the Lawyers' Lounge to permanently house another court or the space would be converted into office space for other courts. She informed us that a ruling is expected in the next couple of weeks.

The attorneys and judicial staff have enjoyed and heavily utilized the Lawyers' Lounge for more years than many of us can recall, decades in fact. Additionally, within the past couple of years, the HCBA, with donations from law firms and individual lawyers, has expended several thousand dollars updating the Lawyer's Lounge including lighting, ceiling work, painting, re-carpeting, furnishings, phone/internet services, etc. Prior to spending these funds to refurbish the Lawyers' Lounge, the HCBA was assured that its members would have future long term use of the space.

**received**  
5-15-07

Judge J.D. Salinas  
Honorable Commissioners  
May 11, 2007  
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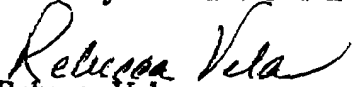
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While we understand the problem of limited space at the courthouse, our Members need this space and simply have no where else to go to in order to confer about their cases, discuss compromises, or await hearings and jury decisions. Accordingly, we request that you rule in favor of keeping the Lawyers' Lounge and continuing to permit the HCBA to maintain that space.

Respectfully yours,

**Hidalgo County Bar Association**

By:

  
Rebecca Vela,  
HCBA President 2006-2007