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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOJ Lawsuit Rightly Asserts Federal Immigration Power

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has stepped up to the plate by filing a lawsuit today challenging Arizona's immigration law as unconstitutional. William Sanchez, P.A., and FIAC, which are representing The National Coalition of Latino Clergy & Christian Leaders (CONLAMIC) in one of the first lawsuits filed against the Arizona state law, welcome DOJ's action. The DOJ lawsuit asserts that under the U.S. Constitution, the federal government has exclusive power over federal immigration matters.

CONLAMIC represents more than 20,000 Latino churches and pastors nationwide.

Left unchallenged, Arizona's approach would encourage a patchwork of state immigration laws that would only generate conflict and confusion while doing nothing to repair our broken immigration system. Immigration is a national issue that demands a national solution. Rather than add to the problem, states would do best to press Congress and the administration for comprehensive immigration reform.

"We hope this signals that the Obama administration will also strongly advocate for immigration reform, which is what our plaintiffs truly desire," said William Sanchez, Miami attorney.

FIAC Executive Director Cheryl Little added: "We're on notice that Florida legislators are planning to follow Arizona's lead. Hopefully the DOJ lawsuit will send a powerful message that immigration laws are a federal responsibility."

Organizations and attorneys on the case, The National Coalition Of Latino Clergy & Christian Leaders (CONLAMIC) et al., include:

- Arizona Latino Caucus of the Arizona State Legislature: Chair Ben R. Miranda
- William Sanchez, P.A.: William Sanchez
- Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center: Tania Galloni

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About Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center

Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC) is one of the nation's largest non-profit immigration law firms. Since its founding in 1996, FIAC has closed more than 65,000 cases. This direct service work informs its broader policy work, positioning FIAC as a powerful national advocate for immigrants' rights and a leader in the immigration field. FIAC influences national policy; successfully litigates or otherwise challenges patterns of abuse; and takes a leading role in educating the public about the impact that immigration laws and directives have on our communities. FIAC is dedicated to protecting and promoting the basic rights of immigrants.

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