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**Senator Luis Sepúlveda on the Hearing of the Judiciary Committee:  
Nomination of the Honorable Judge Héctor LaSalle**

The circumstances of yesterday's hearing before the New York Senate Judiciary Committee and the unfair treatment of the Honorable Judge Héctor LaSalle on his nomination to Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals only saddens me and has provoked intense anger in the Latino community.

Yesterday Judge LaSalle, in a historic hearing, cleared all doubts. Judge LaSalle faced the most intense scrutiny during a nearly five hour hearing and demonstrated that he was more than qualified to assume the position. He demonstrated his intellectual and professional capacity. Apparently, when it comes to Latinos, we are never good enough.

Recently Congressman Adriano Espaillat explained the importance for our Latino communities to have a place at the decision making table or "be eaten alive." We will not give up, we will not look back. For us it has always been difficult. The fight is just beginning. The Latino community united will rise up and demand its place at the table.

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