FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 9th, 2012

National Bar Association for Undocumented Lawyers to Hold Press Conference in Washington D.C.

WASHINGTON D.C. – The DREAM Bar Association (DBA), the first and only bar association representing undocumented lawyers, will hold a press conference on Tuesday, November 13th, 2012 in Washington D.C. to spotlight the launching of its “DREAM Lawyers” campaign. The campaign will combine research, litigation, and advocacy to encourage all 50 states to grant law licenses to undocumented immigrants and emphasize the need to reform of our nation's immigration laws.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Sergio Garcia, an undocumented law graduate and the plaintiff in the California Supreme Court bar licensing case
- Jose Manuel Godinez-Samperio, an undocumented law graduate and the applicant in the Florida Supreme Court case
- Caesar Vargas, an undocumented law graduate seeking admission to the New York State Bar
- Vanessa Pumar, an undocumented law student
- Brent Wilkes, Executive Director of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
- Frank Sherry, Executive Director of America’s Voice
- Angela Kelley, Vice President of Immigration Policy at Center for American Progress (CAP)

WHAT: DREAM Bar Association Press Conference
WHEN: 10:00 AM EST, Tuesday, November 13th, 2012.
WHERE: American Immigration Lawyers Association
First Floor, Conference Room B
1331 G St. NW
Washington, DC 20005

Facebook RSVP: https://www.facebook.com/dreambarassociation/events
Media RSVP: cvargas@drmcapitolgroup.com

Jose Magaña, President of the DREAM Bar Association, stated – “The DREAM Lawyers campaign calls on all 50 states to pass legislation and promulgate rules that would ensure that students who have graduated from an ABA-accredited law school, meet the state bar’s character and fitness requirements, and successfully pass the bar examination are able to obtain a law license and fully utilize their legal education. This is a fundamental question of fairness. It is only fair that those that struggled and dedicated years of their lives to obtain a legal degree should be able to employ that degree to the fullest extent.”

Caesar Vargas, DBA Member seeking admission to New York State Bar, stated – “As individuals of color who are undocumented, we are the least likely group of individuals to complete law school and practice law. Yet, the DREAM Bar Association stands as proof that the legal profession is open to all, regardless of immigration status. In spite of the administration’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), states can still deny bar licenses to highly qualified applicants that pass the bar. This status quo simply cannot stand.”

Sergio Garcia, DBA Member and Plaintiff in the California Supreme Court Case, stated – “The DBA represents the best and the brightest young minds; it represents limitless potential no longer willing to be wasted and ready, willing, and able to help this great country bring back the American dream.”

Jose Manuel Godinez-Samperio, DBA Member and Applicant in the Florida Supreme Court Case, stated – “I am undocumented, unapologetic, and unafraid. I am undocumented because Congress has failed to act. My parents brought me as a nine-year old child with a tourist visa from Mexico seeking a better life. Although I have a law degree, no avenues to adjust my status exist. I am unapologetic because it is not my fault congress has failed to take leadership. I am unafraid, because I am not afraid of the truth. Sen. Marco Rubio needs to fill the leadership void in Congress. Sen. Rubio must co-sponsor the real DREAM Act, the DREAM Act with papers, the DREAM Act with a path to citizenship.”

Vanessa Pumar, DBA Member, stated – “More than 20 years after Plyler v. Doe, the DBA was founded as a testament to the achievements undocumented immigrant children are able to obtain through education. We have surpassed people’s expectations, including those of Justice Brennan. The DBA will shine a light to provide a path for other undocumented students who wish to obtain a legal education and offer the superior legal representation that the immigrant community deserves.”