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Monterey County Immigration Lawyer Blanca Zarazúa

to Receive Civil Liberties Award

--Introduction by Secretary Leon Panetta--

Blanca Zarazúa will receive the Ralph B. Atkinson Civil Liberties Award on Saturday, October 20, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the MIIS, Irvine Auditorium 499 Pierce St, Monterey. Secretary Leon Panetta, a former recipient of the award, will introduce Ms. Zarazúa.

Presented by the Monterey County Chapter of the ACLU of Northern California, the award honors Ms. Zarazúa for her work supporting immigrants and immigrant rights.

A reception with refreshments will be held following the event from 7 to 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Reservations are requested but not required. For more information and/or to make reservations: 831-776-1514.

Blanca Estela Zarazúa, Esq. Honorary Consul of Mexico, has been practicing law since 1987. She represents individuals and families with respect to immigration law matters. Recently, Ms. Zarazúa secured the release of a DACA recipient who had been inappropriately detained by ICE. She also served as co-counsel in a class action representing victims who sued City of King for civil rights violations after several police officers misappropriated the victims’ vehicles.

Ms. Zarazúa has involved herself in a wide variety of professional and community activities. She is a member of the Monterey County Immigration Coalition. The Coalition has worked closely with the Monterey County Sheriff's department to ensure fair treatment of undocumented immigrants.

Ms. Zarazúa has served on the boards of the international advisors for the Monterey Institute of International Studies; Big Sur Land Trust; the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley; Northern California Public Broadcasting (Community Advisory Panel); California Historical Society; and Monterey County La Raza Lawyers Association. She is currently Chair of the Siembra Latinos Fund, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Monterey County.

The Ralph B. Atkinson Civil Liberties Award is named for a local community activist who served on the Board of Directors of ACLU-NC. It has been presented annually since 1977 to a person, persons or groups who have in a significant way contributed to civil liberties in Monterey County. Secretary Panetta received the award in 1983.

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