



**For Immediate Release
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MANA's President & CEO Recognized As Outstanding Hispanic Role Model

Alma Morales Riojas, MANA, A National Latina Organization is a recipient of Image de San Antonio "Outstanding Hispanic Women Award" for being an outstanding Hispanic Woman role model. In observance of Women's Equality Day-August 26, Image de San Antonio is holding their Ninth Annual Women's Equality Day Banquet, Saturday, August 26, 2006 at the Kelly Field Club, in San Antonio Texas. Women's Equality Day was established in 1971 by Representative Bella Abzug commemorating women's full voting rights.

In addition, to being honored at the Ninth Annual Women's Equality Day Banquet, Ms. Riojas is the Mistress of Ceremonies. Image is a national non-profit organization concerned with education, employment, and civil rights of Hispanic Americans. Proceeds from the Banquet will be used for scholarships.

Before she became President and CEO of MANA, Ms. Riojas served as National Executive Director of Federally Employed Women, Inc; Executive Director of the National Alliance of Veteran and Family Service Organizations; Associate Director of the National Network of Runaway and Youth Services; and President of ALMA Consulting Services. Ms. Riojas was Expert Consultant with the Washington Headquarters Services, The Pentagon, where she developed the first Affirmative Action and Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Plans for the Offices of the Secretary of Defense and Joint Chiefs of Staff. Ms. Riojas served as National Director for the Office of Equal Opportunity for the Department of Agriculture at a Senior Executive Service (SES) Level.

Her focus on community development has lead to her appointment and election to a variety of national boards, community organization and initiatives. She is Chair of the Board of the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR); Vice-Chair of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda; and Vice-Chair of the SER National Board of Directors. She also serves on the National Council of Women's Organizations' steering committee; the Diversity Council for Bennett College; the AARP and Pfizer Hispanic Advisory Council; and the National Consumers League Board of Directors. She is the first Latina to serve as a Director for the Board of the National Women's History Museum. As National Chairwoman of the American GI Forum she served as a Board member of the Hispanic Education Foundation, National SER, Jobs for Progress, and the National Veterans Outreach Program.

Founded in 1974, MANA, A National Latina Organization® (MANA) is a national grassroots membership organization with chapters, individual members and affiliates across the country. MANA's mission is to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service, and advocacy. Its four national goals are to: strengthen Latinas as community leaders; create vital Hispanic communities; advance public policy for an equal and just society; and grow and sustain a healthy organization. MANA achieves its mission and goals through its two premiere programs, the AvanZamos® Program, an adult Latina leadership training program and the HERMANITAS® Program for young Latinas.

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