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NomineeAlert



this issue:

John Trasvina, Nominee for Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity

Trasvina's Background

President and General Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF)

Immigration Law Instructor, Stanford Law School

Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices, U.S. Department of Justice

Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs

General Counsel & Staff Director, U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution

Deputy City Attorney, City and County of San Francisco

EDUCATION

B.A. Harvard University
J.D. Stanford Law School

Who is John Trasvina? Illegals' advocate...

On March 26, 2009 President Obama announced John Trasvina as his nominee for Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. This position is responsible for ensuring equal access to housing through legislation such as the Fair Housing Act.

Trasvina, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund, is a supporter of illegal immigration. He and his organization, (MALDEF), have demonized opponents in an effort to push their agenda.

Under Trasvina's leadership, MALDEF funded a \$2 million lawsuit by a previously-deported convicted drug dealer against a U.S. rancher. The rancher had held the drug dealer for trespassing on the rancher's property until immigration authorities arrived. The drug dealer lost his case. Fn.1.

Last year, Trasvina stated that he wants the

new president to do four things immediately. He wants ICE to only go after those who have been convicted of a crime or have received a final deportation order. He wants to put a stop to local

“ MALDEF is an organization of lawyers. We believe in the law, and part of legalization, part of enforcement, is legalization. It's an overall picture. It's enforcing the law. ”

governments enforcing immigration laws. He wants to stop neighborhood raids when census takers are around. Finally, he wants American taxpayers to send foreign aid to Latin American countries to build their economies. The

affect of this last idea would be that taxpayers would subsidize Latin Americans both here and in their countries. Fn.2.

Trasvina opposes the deportation of felony suspects, only convicted criminals who are illegal should be returned to their home countries. When asked if illegals who are suspected felons should be deported, Trasvina responded with the following: **“Clearly not.** And that is where we would draw the line and strongly oppose that-- simply saying that if you're charged with a crime that means you're going to be turned over to ICE...” (Emphasis added.) Fn.3.

What you really need to know about John Trasvina.

“The numbers of hate crimes have gone up around the country. It comes from the media, from the right wing talk shows, the cable shows, the internet, the bloggers. Those are really stepping up the anti-immigrant venom that’s out there. And we’ve always had anti-immigrant sentiment in this country. We’re sort of schizophrenic when it comes to immigrants. As a nation we’re proud of being a beacon of freedom for immigrants from across the world. Whether they’re fleeing persecution or whether they want to start a new life, we welcome them contributing to the nation. At the same time, newcomers who have come to this country, whether they came from Ireland or Poland or Asia or Latin America, have always started at the bottom of, of the rung and suffered abuses. Whether it’s the anti-Chinese laws in the 1800s, the deportations of Mexicans in the 1930s, whether they were citizens or not. we’ve had a cycle and a pattern a historic pattern of anti-immigrant sentiment. So today the situation in Shenandoah is not much different than in the past.” National Hispanic Media Coalition Interview with John Trasvina, August 14, 2008.

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Sources for further reading and viewing:

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Fn.2. Interview of John Trasvina. Video available online at: <http://www.errachidia.org/tv/video-MALDEF-1-q8NhbLHaBUc.html>. (Accessed April 13, 2009.)

Fn.3. *Latino USA*, Episode 802, National Public Radio, August 15, 2008. Available online at: <http://www.podcastdirectory.com/podshows/3333778>. (Accessed April 13, 2009.)

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