



HISTORIC APPOINTMENT

## Hon. Leonardo Castro elected to serve as Chief Judge of the Second Judicial District

**May 22, 2020**

**The Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association extends its heartfelt congratulations to the Honorable Leonardo Castro for his election as the first Latino judicial district chief judge in Minnesota. Judge Castro has served as a district court judge in the Second Judicial District since 2012. His term as chief judge begins on July 1, 2020.**

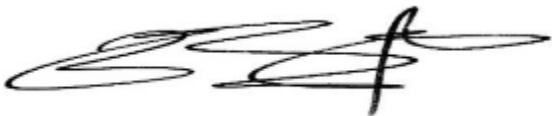
**Judge Castro has a distinguished career of public service. He served in the United States Air Force from 1981 – 1989. In 1994, he became the first Latino chief public defender in the Fifth Judicial District. In 2001, he**

**became the first Latino chief public defender in the Fourth Judicial District, the largest judicial district in Minnesota, and he served in that role for eight years.**

**Judge Castro is an active member of the MHBA and the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), of which the MHBA is an affiliate. He served as the chair of the MHBA Judicial Endorsements Committee in 2002, and he received the MHBA's Career Achievement Award in 2005. Judge Castro is also active in the HNBA. He is currently Co-Chair of the HNBA's Judicial Division and the HNBA 2020 Uvaldo Herrera National Moot Court Competition. In 2015, he received the HNBA Latino Judge of the Year Award.**

**The MHBA is proud to celebrate this achievement of one of our foundational members who displays such commitment to community, mentoring students, and supporting the next generation of attorneys. Judge Castro represents the best of our Hispanic community.**

**Unidos,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zuri Balmakund Santiago', written in a cursive style.

**Zuri Balmakund Santiago**

Presidenta