



BARRY UNIVERSITY

NEWS RELEASE

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Barry Law Dean Speaks at Press Conference Supporting DREAM Act

Orlando, Fla. – Leticia M. Diaz, dean of the Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law, was among the speakers at a press conference held at the Diocese of Orlando on Nov. 30 urging support of the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2009, commonly referred to as the DREAM Act. The legislation would provide legal status and educational opportunities to immigrant youngsters who entered the United States as minor children if they meet specific criteria.

"As a Catholic institution of higher education, Barry University School of Law recognizes the importance of providing access to education to those who are truly committed to learning and personal growth," said Dean Diaz. "The DREAM Act will benefit all members of our population, not just a select few. Everyone wins when our youth are educated and become productive citizens."



Other speakers at the press conference included:

- Father Terry Niziolek, M.S., Parochial Vicar of Good Shepherd Catholic Church and Advisor for FOCUS (Federation of Congregations United to Serve)
- Karen Moran, Hope Community Center staff specializing in undocumented student placement
- Maria Desangles, coordinator for the Service Learning Program in Apopka

Earlier in the day, Archbishop Thomas Wenski, a long-standing immigrant advocacy leader in the national scene, participated in a press conference hosted by St. Thomas University in Miami. It is the vision of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) of finding solutions for thousands of young persons who simply want to advance through education and contribute to the future socioeconomic vitality of the nation.

Dean Diaz, the first female Cuban-American dean of an American Bar Association-accredited law school in the U.S., is a member of the advisory committee for the recently formed ABA Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights & Responsibilities. The commission was formed to identify the significant legal issues affecting Hispanics in the United States and to develop recommendations for solutions to the problems faced by the growing Latino U.S. population.

About Barry School of Law

Established in 1999, the Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law offers a quality legal education in a caring, diverse environment. A Catholic-oriented institution, Barry Law School challenges students to accept intellectual, personal, ethical, spiritual, and social responsibilities, and commits itself to assuring an atmosphere of religious freedom. Barry Law School is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and has a current enrollment of more than 700 students from around the world. More information is at www.barry.edu/law.