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May 7, 2012

**NELA Participates In White House Strategy Session  
To Address Judicial Vacancy Crisis**

**(Washington, DC)** – The National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA) is among 150 advocates from across the country President Barack Obama has invited to participate in today's strategy session to address the issue of the federal judicial vacancy crisis and ways to move stalled nominees through the Senate. The courts have declared emergencies in 37 jurisdictions because of the length of the vacancies and the number of backlogged cases.

NELA participants include NELA-Illinois member Megan O'Malley, a principal and founding partner of O'Malley & Madden, P.C., who poignantly described to White House officials how her client had waited over 10 years to have her employment discrimination case heard due to the lack of judges in Illinois. Also taking part in today's session is William Ewing, a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Employment Lawyers Association, whose home state includes five vacancies of which two are "emergency" vacancies, one formally announced last week by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

"NELA not only advocates for a swift end to obstructionism in the Senate of the President's judicial nominees, but also efforts to nominate individuals with professionally diverse backgrounds and a better understanding of the plight of America's workers," stated Eric M. Gutiérrez, NELA's Legislative & Public Policy Director. Gutiérrez served on the Planning Committee of the Coalition for Constitutional Values, the broad-based coalition that sponsored the event.

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*The National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA) advances employee rights and serves lawyers who advocate for equality and justice in the American workplace. NELA provides assistance and support to lawyers in protecting the rights of employees against the greater resources of their employers and the defense bar. It is the country's largest professional organization exclusively comprised of lawyers who represent individual employees in cases involving employment discrimination and other employment-related matters. NELA and its 68 state and local affiliates have more than 3,000 members around the country.*