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Princeton, NJ 08540

December 8, 2016

**Via Federal Express**

Mr. Ricardo Salinas  
c/o Latinos and Society Program  
The Aspen Institute  
One Dupont Circle, Ste. 700  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Salinas:

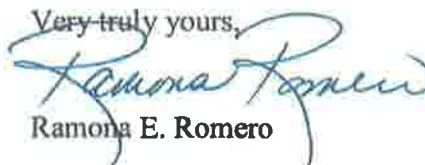
This past summer, I participated in the Aspen Institute's Justice and Society Seminar as a Ricardo Salinas Foundation Scholar. My participation would not have been possible without the Foundation's support, and I write to express my heartfelt gratitude. Please accept my apologies for not having written sooner -- my "thank you" is no less sincere for being embarrassingly late.

The Seminar was a unique, enriching and memorable experience. For nearly three decades, I have been practicing law, focused on building a career while also volunteering time to multiple professional, civic and community organizations and growing a family. My life has been full and wonderful, but also intensely busy. Opportunities for in-depth reflection about issues central to the welfare of our society and its members --but unrelated to my work -- have been nearly absent.

This summer's Seminar enabled me to hit the pause button and revisit scholarly writings, cases, and concepts I had not tackled in a very long time. My co-participants were talented and diverse thinkers who both challenged and reinforced my own notions concerning how the law, the legal system and societal institutions interact with and affect individuals and groups. Through our readings and discussions, I gained a more nuanced perspective on the meaning of justice, and a renewed appreciation for the rule of law and an independent judiciary as indispensable components of a just society.

The Seminar's discussions became all the more relevant after the November election here in the United States. Reflecting on recent events in the context of what I learned strengthens my resolve to advocate for those whose entitlement to justice and equity is likely to be challenged in the coming years. I look forward to honoring the Foundation's support through my efforts.

Gracias de nuevo por su apoyo. Feliz Navidad a usted y los suyos.

Very truly yours,  
  
Ramona E. Romero

Ms. Chertoff, Ms. Golden -Vasquez  
and Mr. Green – Aspen Institute