

**Washington, D.C.** – San Antonio Congressman Charlie Gonzalez honored Associate Judge Richard Garcia with the 2011 Angels in Adoption Award at a ceremony at the United States Capitol. The Angels in Adoption program is overseen by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute and recognizes individuals for their outstanding advocacy on adoption and foster care issues. Congressman Gonzalez selected Associate Judge Garcia to receive this year’s award because of his countless years of service and dedication to the children of Texas. Congressman Gonzalez issued the following statement regarding Associate Judge Garcia’s award:

“Throughout his career, Associate Judge Richard Garcia has dedicated his life to helping the children of our community. Richard’s compassion, conviction, and dedication has helped bring together and repair the lives of thousands of families in San Antonio and Bexar County, and we are forever grateful. It is truly an honor to represent constituents like Associate Judge Richard Garcia in our nation’s capitol, and it is truly an honor for me to be able to recognize his years of selfless service with this award.”

Associate Judge Richard Garcia has been presiding in the Bexar County Children’s Court since August 2004 and has played an instrumental role in the adoption of many children in Bexar County. The Bexar County Children’s Court, in collaboration with the Bexar County Commissioner Court, Child Protective Services, Bexar County Child Welfare Board, Bexar County District Judges, and various local agencies, has led the State of Texas in the number of children adopted over the last five years, averaging over one thousand children each year. Prior to serving on the Bexar County Children’s Court, Associate Judge Garcia was originally appointed to the Bexar County Family Law Court in 1990.

□

###