



HISPANIC  
BAR  
ASSOCIATION

## 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL INSTALLATION AND SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

REYNOLD LAMBERT, ESQ.  
*HBA-NJ Incoming President  
and the 2020-2021 Officers and Trustees*

---

December 3, 2020





Lowenstein proudly supports

# THE HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY'S 41ST ANNUAL INSTALLATION AND SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

We congratulate our friend and colleague **REYNOLD LAMBERT** on his installation as President and all of the 2020-2021 Officers and Trustees.

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Yessica J. Pinales  
YLC Chair



Melinda Colón Cox  
Immediate Past President

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# EVENT PROGRAM



## WELCOME BY MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

**By Albertina Webb, Esq.**

HBA-NJ Vice President of the Southern Region | Partner, Hill Wallack LLP

## INTRODUCTION OF HBA-NJ IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

**By Tabatha L. Castro, Esq.**

HBA-NJ President Elect | Founder, The Castro Law Firm, Inc.

## REMARKS

**Melinda Colón Cox, Esq.**

HBA-NJ Immediate Past President | Partner, Parker Ibrahim & Berg LLP

## INTRODUCTION OF HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

**Carlos M. Bollar, Esq.**

HBA-NJ Past-President & President-Elect of HNBA | Partner, Archer & Greiner

## REMARKS

**Elia Diaz-Yaeger, Esq.**

National President of the HNBA | Shareholder, Lugenbuhl, Wheaton, Peck, Rankin & Hubbard

## CORAZON DEL HBA-NJ AWARD PRESENTATION

**By Jonathan Barrera, Esq.**

HBA-NJ Trustee - Region 4 (Passaic County) | Assistant Prosecutor, Passaic County Prosecutor's Office

## SWEARING-IN OF THE 2020-2021 OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

**Introduction of the Honorable Jaclyn Medina, J.S.C.**

**By Jacqueline S. Peña, Esq.**

HBA-NJ Recording Secretary | Associate, Cozen O'Connor

## INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY-SWORN PRESIDENT

**By Miguel Alexander Pozo, Esq.**

HBA-NJ & HNBA Past President | Member, Cozen O'Connor

## PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

**Reynold Lambert, Esq.**

HBA-NJ President | Partner, Lowenstein Sandler LLP

## CLOSING OF OFFICIAL PROGRAM

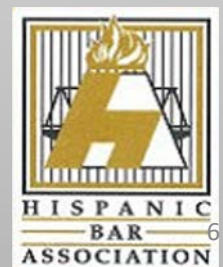
*With Special Presentations & Entertainment Throughout the Evening*

# MISSION STATEMENT

**Founded in 1980, the HBA-NJ is a 501(c)(6) statewide organization which represents the interests of attorneys, judges, law professors and law students who share a common interest in resolving the issues affecting Hispanics within the legal community.**

**The purpose of the Association is to serve the public interest by: (i) cultivating the art and science of jurisprudence, (ii) advancing the standing of the legal professions, and (iii) preserving high standards of integrity, honor, and professional courtesy among Hispanic lawyers.**

**The HBA-NJ is a very active bar association. In addition to its many initiatives, programs, and public advocacy activities, the HBA-NJ cooperates with other Hispanic bar organizations, with other Hispanic community, business, civic, charitable and cultural organizations, as well as with other legal organizations in furtherance of the aforementioned purposes.**



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

December 3, 2020

Dear HBA-NJ *familia*, supporters, and friends,

*¡Buenas noches!* It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 41<sup>st</sup> Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (the “HBA-NJ”). After nearly ten years on the Board, the HBA-NJ truly has become part of my *familia*. And now, I have the distinct honor of leading this great and impactful organization. *¡Adelante vamos!*

My vision for the HBA-NJ is embodied in our annual theme: ***¡Respira! Break Barriers & Rebuild Our Future.*** This year was, and continues to be, an unprecedented and exhausting year. “*Respira*” – or “Breathe” – is the foundation of our theme, and serves as a stark reminder of the racial injustices we witnessed this year, which are perhaps best represented by the killings of George Floyd in Minnesota and Carlos Lopez in Arizona. We heard terrifying recordings of them pleading for their lives and repeating they could not breathe. The HBA-NJ remembers our fallen brothers and sisters, and we will be there, every time, to condemn injustice.

“*Respira*” is also a call to action. While we all take aim at helping others, it is important for us to pause for a moment, take a breath, and remember to care for ourselves. The pandemic has magnified one of the most serious problems faced by many lawyers: mental health struggles, including depressions, anxiety, and alcohol and substance abuse. The Latinx community suffers disproportionately from unmet health needs. To break the stigma that attaches to mental health issues in many circles, the HBA-NJ will be hosting its first ever M.E.N.T.E. Conference, which stands for *Mental Education & Nurturing Through Engagement*. The M.E.N.T.E. Conference will tackle various mental wellness topics, including risk factors associated with burnout, aiming for an appropriate work-life balance, spotting friends and colleagues who may suffer from mental health issues, and how the pandemic may have exacerbated the intensity of stress-related symptoms. We will address multiple coping skills, such as positive thinking, breathwork, gentle stretches, socialization, and exercise, all of which can help combat and prevent mental distress.

The second component of our theme – “*Break Barriers & Rebuild Our Future*” – sets the stage for an aggressive agenda. Over the last few years, anti-immigrant rhetoric has reached unprecedented and dangerous heights. As the voice of the Latinx legal community in New Jersey, the HBA-NJ will press for change to reverse this rhetoric and to further the rebuilding and healing process. Now more than ever, our voice must be deafening. Together, we can and will make that happen.

The HBA-NJ will be heard on proposed legislation and public policy that impacts our community, meet with government officials to ensure our voices are heard, and demand the promotion of Latinos and Latinas to important positions of influence. We will continue to educate. For example, the New Jersey Supreme Court recently amended the CLE rules and regulations to require courses devoted to diversity, inclusion, and the elimination of bias. That is a remarkable achievement that I hope will create meaningful change in our profession. The HBA will be part of that change. We will focus on the presentation of CLE courses to educate our profession on these important topics. Finally, we will continue investing in our pipeline of Latinx leaders. Our annual Law School Mentorship and American Dream Pipeline Programs are already firing on all cylinders. We will also continue awarding scholarship to promising Latinx students, and growing our Scholarship Endowment Fund.

While I am excited about our future, I must acknowledge the awe-inspiring year we just had under the leadership of Immediate Past President, Melinda Colón Cox. In a pandemic, Melinda raised more than \$100,000 for scholarships and donations, created various programming designed to help our membership during the worst of times, and spoke out and against condemned injustice. Melinda led passionately and fearlessly, and I am honored to have served as her President-elect. Congratulations, Melinda, on a remarkable year!

I also must extend my deepest appreciation to our sponsors. Without them, we would not be able to put together the great programs we hold year after year. I cannot emphasize enough that, even during a pandemic and facing economic uncertainties, our sponsors continued to believe in and support our mission. They are true champions of diversity and inclusion. That matters. They deserve your time, attention, and business.

To our distinguished friends, members, and guests, I thank you for joining and celebrating with us tonight. I hope everyone has a wonderful and fun evening!



Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Reynold Lambert', written in a cursive style.

Reynold Lambert  
*Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey, President*



## MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

December 3, 2020

Dear Friends, Family, Members & Supporters,

*Bienvenidos!* Welcome to the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey's ("HBA-NJ") 41st Installation & Swearing-In Ceremony. It has been a true pleasure serving as your 40th President and I am humbled by the support and love each of you have shown me and the HBA-NJ throughout the year. I will be forever grateful.

Tonight, as I reflect on my 2019-2020 term as the HBA-NJ's 40th President, I feel proud. Despite the unexpected and challenging times that 2020 brought us, the HBA-NJ persevered, celebrating our theme for the year, *Rise Up – Engage, Empower, Educate*. In a time of social unrest and a pandemic that has changed our lives forever, it was both important and necessary for the HBA-NJ to *Rise Up* to support our membership and our community – and so we did! We engaged, empowered and educated our community through various educational and training programs regarding the 2020 Census, voter registration, the 2020 election, and financial literacy and wellness, while continuing to invest in our future by mentoring law school students and high school students throughout the year. We used our collective and powerful voice to speak out against the injustices happening throughout our nation and in support of important legislation that impacts our legal and Latinx communities and the diversification of our legal profession, judiciary and government, issuing several Press Releases and participating in various committees and commissions.

We did not stop there! In the first 40 days of my term, the HBA-NJ raised over \$40,000.00 in 40 days in celebration of the HBA-NJ's 40th Anniversary and, based on your generosity and support, we donated a record-setting \$103,000.00 towards our 2020 student scholarships and Scholarship Endowment Fund! Through collaboration with other New Jersey and New York organizations, the HBA-NJ also raised an additional \$22,000.00 through our Jersey Strong COVID-19 Undocumented Family Fundraiser, which was donated to undocumented families in need throughout New Jersey, and \$10,000.00 through the Coalition, which was donated to minority-owned restaurants to deliver meals to our frontline workers.

The HBA-NJ had a spectacular year – a year that has taught us just how strong our HBA-NJ *familia* is and how blessed we are to have such a supportive community and loyal tribe. Together we are stronger and together we shall rise.

As the Outgoing President, I have no doubt that the HBA-NJ will continue to serve as a pillar of strength for our Latinx community and the legal profession. The HBA-NJ is one of the strongest bar associations in New Jersey, and possibly throughout the nation, and it is certain to continue to grow under the helm and leadership of my dear friend and colleague, Rey Lambert. Rey has been an integral member of the HBA-NJ Board for several years and it is my sincere honor to pass the torch to him.

## MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Please join me in congratulating Rey as he is installed as the 41st President of this great organization. I wish Rey and the 2020-2021 Board the best of luck on what will certainly be a successful and extraordinary year! Enjoy the evening and please stay safe, healthy and happy.



*Con cariño,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melinda Colón Cox". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Melinda Colón Cox

*Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey, Immediate Past President*

ROBERT MENENDEZ  
NEW JERSEY

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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3005

528 SENATE HART OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-4744

ONE GATEWAY CENTER  
11TH FLOOR  
NEWARK, NJ 07102  
(973) 645-3030

208 WHITE HORSE PIKE  
SUITE 18-19  
BARRINGTON, NJ 08007  
(856) 757-5353

December 3, 2020

Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey  
P.O. Box 25562  
Newark, NJ 07101

Dear Friends,

Please accept my best wishes as you gather virtually to celebrate the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (HBA-NJ). While we are unable to gather in person, it is truly wonderful to see the continued excellence of the HBA-NJ and have an opportunity to celebrate the incoming leadership.

Since its inception in 1980, the HBA-NJ's dedication to diversity and inclusion within the legal profession has had a lasting impact on New Jersey. As one of the most active bar associations in the country, the HBA-NJ supports attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students in their work with the Hispanic community. This cross-generational network has cultivated the art and science of jurisprudence, and preserved the high standards of integrity and honor that are indispensable in our judicial system.

As you celebrate another anniversary in the HBA-NJ's illustrious history, I commend the organization's recommitment to its founding principles of engaging initiatives and public advocacy through partnerships with state, local, and national organizations. Between mentorship and scholarships for law students, the HBA-NJ continues to be an invaluable resource for its members and the broader legal community.

As your senior United States Senator, I am truly honored to have an opportunity to recognize and applaud the HBA-NJ for their sustained advocacy and commitment to New Jersey's Hispanic community. Please accept my best wishes on another year of excellence and continued success of your organization. I thank you for your work and look forward to continuing our work together towards a brighter future.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez  
United States Senator

## United States Senate

December 3, 2020

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to extend my warmest greetings as you gather for the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony. I am especially delighted to congratulate the new President, Reynold Lambert, and the 2020-2021 Officer and Trustees who take office today. I am certain that you will work hard to continue to bring honor to the legal profession.

The Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (HBA-NJ) has demonstrated a fidelity to that ideal which calls on us to live our lives in devotion to a higher, nobler cause. Through your critical work and commitment, you have promoted increased diversity within the legal profession by elevating minority voices and inspiring Hispanic youth to pursue their dreams. Though today's ceremony may be different than those in years past, know that your achievements and positive impact remain unchanged. Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for all that you have done and continue to do.

Once again, best wishes for a successful event. I look forward to your continued success.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

ALBIO SIRES  
EIGHTH DISTRICT  
NEW JERSEY

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

It is an honor to extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey as you celebrate your 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony. It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter commemorating the many accomplishments the members of the HBA have provided to the people of New Jersey. The tireless commitment and dedication from each and every member is very special and particularly in today's climate; you must continue to empower.

The Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey since its inception has been working to promote diversity and inclusion within the legal profession and you have succeeded. You have played a vital role in the communities by creating mentorship programs and bestowing scholarships to Hispanic recipients. You have promoted diversity within the workplace and have helped attorneys and judges achieve a greater understanding of the issues affecting Hispanics.

Your success is reflected today as we celebrate the HBA's 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

Best wishes for a special and memorable event, and always know that my office stands behind you as you continue to make me proud.

Respectfully,

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress





STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
P.O. BOX 001  
TRENTON  
08625  
(609) 292-6000

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
GOVERNOR

December 3, 2020

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the State of New Jersey, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered in virtual attendance for the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey.

Since its inception, HBA-NJ has worked tirelessly to promote diversity and inclusion within the legal profession. For four decades, HBA-NJ has remained committed to building bridges across generations of Hispanic legal professionals, serving the public interest by cultivating the art and science of jurisprudence, advancing the standing of the legal profession and preserving the high standards of integrity and honor that are so essential to our nation's system of law and justice.

As Governor, I am proud of organizations like HBA-NJ that contribute to the richness of New Jersey's cultural, social and economic fabric. I commend the leadership of HBA-NJ as well as the organization's past, present and future members for their commitment to HBA-NJ's mission and endless efforts to ensure a stronger and fairer New Jersey.

Tonight, I also join with HBA-NJ to congratulate and applaud incoming HBA-NJ President, Reynold Lambert. President Lambert's tireless dedication to advance the legal profession and empower our communities, is to be admired. And we are all forever fortunate to benefit from his time and service.

Best wishes to all for an enjoyable and memorable evening. Always know that the State of New Jersey stands behind each of you as you continue to make us proud.

My very best,

  
Philip D. Murphy  
Governor



NEW JERSEY SENATE

STEPHEN M. SWEENEY  
SENATE PRESIDENT

Email: SenSweeney@njleg.org

PLEASE REPLY TO:  KINGSWAY COMMONS  
SUITE 400  
935 KINGS HIGHWAY  
WEST DEPTFORD, NJ 08086  
TEL: (856) 251-9801  
FAX: (856) 251-9752  
 199 EAST BROADWAY  
SUITE G  
SALEM, NJ 08079  
TEL: (856) 339-0808  
FAX: (856) 339-9626

December 3, 2020

The Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey  
P.O. Box 25562  
Newark, New Jersey 07101

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I offer my congratulations to the *Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey* on the occasion of its 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony.

For more than four decades, the *Hispanic Bar Association* has been a dedicated partner in service to many of our family, friends, and neighbors in the pursuit of diversity and inclusion in New Jersey's legal community.

This milestone serves as a proud reminder of the many achievements of the *Hispanic Bar Association* since its creation in 1980. It also affirms the Association's mission to instill hope and integrity in our legal system.

I am especially heartened to know the *Hispanic Bar Association* continues its proud tradition of awarding scholarships to deserving students who stand to be enriched by the opportunities afforded to them through the Association's advocacy and outreach.

I commend the *Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey* for its steadfast presence as a valued resource for Hispanic Americans in the State of New Jersey. I extend my best wishes to all participants for an enjoyable evening and continued success in all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Sweeney  
Senate President  
State of New Jersey





NEW JERSEY SENATE

SENATE MINORITY LEADER  
**THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**  
SENATOR - DISTRICT 21  
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(908) 232-3673  
(908) 232-3345 FAX  
senkean@njleg.org  
www.senatenj.com

December 3, 2020

Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey  
P.O. Box 25562  
Newark, New Jersey 07101

Dear Officers and Members:

Congratulations on your 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony.

Ever since its founding in 1980, the Hispanic Bar Association has promoted diversity and inclusion in the legal profession. Over the years, HBA-NJ has made great strides in building bridges across generations and representing the interests of attorneys, judges, law professors and law students.

To each officer, I extend my best wishes for a successful and fulfilling year. In addition, to your membership, I offer my hope for a 2021 that is prosperous and kind as you continue to advance the great work of the Hispanic Bar Association.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas H Kean, Jr.





## NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

GABRIELA MOSQUERA  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

NELLIE POU, CHAIR  
SENATOR, 35<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

ELIANA PINTOR – MARIN  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 29<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

YVONNE LOPEZ  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 19<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

M. TERESA RUIZ  
SENATOR, 29<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 32<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

ANNETTE QUIJANO  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 20<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ  
SENATOR, 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

PEDRO MEJIA  
ASSEMBLYMAN, 32<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

ANNETTE CHAPARRO  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 33<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT

December 3, 2020

Hispanic Bar Association of NJ  
P.O. Box 25562  
Newark, New Jersey 07101

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the New Jersey State Legislative Latino Caucus, it is an honor to extend support and congratulations to the Hispanic Bar Association on its 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Installation and Swearing-in Ceremony of Incoming President, Reynold Lambert and the 2020-2021 officers and trustees. As always, we applaud the dedicated work of the Hispanic Bar Association, heralding diversity to ensure professional excellence, community service and equal access to justice and opportunity.

Congratulations again to the incoming President, Reynold Lambert, the officers and trustees, as well as the entire Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey for your vision, commitment and advocacy.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nellie Pou".

Senator, 35<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Chair, New Jersey Legislative Latino Caucus

100 HAMILTON PLAZA \* SUITE 1405 \* PATERSON, NEW JERSEY 07505  
TEL: 973-247-1555 \* FAX: 973-247-1550 \* EMAIL: senpou@njleg.org



## NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

KIMBERLY A. YONTA, PRESIDENT  
Yonta Law, LLC  
111 Livingston Avenue  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
732-421-1680 • FAX: 732-543-7502  
kim@yontalawnj.com

November 2, 2020

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the 18,000 NJSBA members, please accept our thanks and congratulations on the occasion of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Installation and Swearing-in Ceremony.

The New Jersey State Bar Association is grateful to the HBA-NJ for its significant and meaningful work to further the standing of the legal profession. The organization has worked to advance diversity and inclusion in the profession, has tirelessly built bridges across generations of Hispanic legal professionals and has nurtured a pipeline for those rising in their careers.

The NJSBA stands ever-ready to be your partner in cultivating the standards of integrity and honor that serve as a cornerstone of law and justice in our society.

We extend a special congratulations to incoming president Reynold Lambert; express gratitude to Melinda Colón Cox for her excellent year of service; and welcome into continued service the officers and trustees of this fine organization.

Wishing you Godspeed, good fortune and health in the year ahead.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kimberly A. Yonta'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing 'K' and 'Y'.

Kimberly A. Yonta, Esq.  
President



# HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

*The National Voice of the Hispanic Legal Community*

**President**

*Elia Diaz-Yaeger*

December 3, 2020

**President-Elect**

*Carlos M. Bollar*

Dear Rey,

**COO & Executive Director**

*Alba Cruz-Hacker*

CONGRATULATIONS! On behalf of the National Hispanic Bar Association, I wish to extend to you my heartfelt congratulations as the 41<sup>st</sup> President of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey.

**General Counsel**

*Sonia Zeledon*

Your tenure comes at a time of tremendous challenges and opportunities for your organization and for our community. No doubt your strong leadership and commitment to excellence will certainly continue the overwhelming success of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. I look forward to working with you and the members of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey in meeting the new and continuing challenges the coming year will bring. Pa'lante!

**Finance Director**

*Julia A. López*

I wish you much success in your new role. Sending you my warmest congratulations on your term as President of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey.

**Treasurer**

*Jaime Angarita*

**Secretary**

*Lindsay Maria Holloman*

Abrazos,

**VP Programs**

*Anna María Tejada*

**VP Regions & Affiliates**

*Michael "Frank" Francis*

Elia Diaz-Yaeger | HNBA National President

HNBA VIA Fund | Chair

**VP External Affairs**

*Christina Guerola Sarchio*

**VP Sections & Committees**

*Mariana Bravo*

**VP Membership**

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## REYNOLD LAMBERT, ESQ. President



Reynold (“Rey”) Lambert is a Partner at Lowenstein Sandler LLP, where he focuses on complex commercial disputes, class actions, and domestic and international arbitrations. As counsel for one of the world’s largest telecommunications companies and other international entities, Rey develops and oversees litigation strategies for class actions and other disputes throughout the United States. Among other notable engagements, Rey secured a \$475 million award in an international arbitration venued in Hong Kong relating to a cross-border M&A transaction.

Prior to joining Lowenstein Sandler, Rey served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Susan L. Reisner, New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division. He graduated from Rutgers University School of Law with honors, where upon graduation he received the Justice Henry E. Ackerson, Jr. Award for distinction in the area of legal skill.

As the son of Cuban immigrants, Rey believes that lawyers should use their skills to help those who cannot afford legal services. At Lowenstein Sandler, he dedicates a substantial amount of his time to pro bono matters and works closely with the firm’s Center for Public Interest. He also is an active leader in the firm’s diversity and inclusion initiatives, and a founding member of its Diversity Leadership Network, which is an employee resource group that focuses on recruiting, supporting, and promoting attorneys from diverse backgrounds.

Rey has been a board member of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey for nearly a decade, and currently is the HBA-NJ’s President. He also is a Board Member of Essex-Newark Legal Services and served as a Committee Member of the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Model (Civil) Jury Charges.

## 2020-2021 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

### TABATHA CASTRO, ESQ. President-Elect

Born to Puerto Rican parents, Ms. Castro is a native of New York and moved to Delaware in 1998. She is a graduate of the University at Buffalo and Buffalo State College earning her Bachelor of Arts degrees in Latin American Studies and Legal Studies and her Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Ms. Castro attended Widener University School of Law, where she was on the Moot Court Honor Society and founded the Latin American Law Student Association.

Ms. Castro is the President and Managing Attorney of The Castro Firm, Inc., a



minority and woman-owned law firm specializing in New Jersey and Delaware legal matters.

Ms. Castro is admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court, Federal District Court of Delaware, Delaware Supreme Court and New Jersey Supreme Court. Ms. Castro is the Immediate Past Chairperson for

the Multi-cultural Judges and Lawyers Section of the Delaware State Bar Association. She also serves as President of the Board of the Delaware Hispanic Bar Association and is Region 12 Trustee for the New Jersey Hispanic Bar Association, serving Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem Counties.

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### CRISTAL LAMBERT, ESQ. Vice-President of Northern Region

Cristal Lambert is legal counsel at Bed Bath & Beyond, Inc. (“BB&B”), a publicly traded omnichannel retailer offering domestic merchandise and home furnishings. Prior to BB&B, Cristal was an associate at Waters, McPherson, McNeill, P.C. and clerked for the Honorable Hector R. Velazquez, P.J. of the NJ Superior Court's Chancery Division. Cristal earned her B.A.

from Drew University *magna cum laude* and J.D. from Seton Hall University (“SHU”). In law school, she was selected for the Immigrant's Rights/International Rights Clinic; the Interscholastic Moot Court Board, through which she competed nationally and won sev-



eral brief and oralist awards; Prudential Financial, Inc.'s prestigious summer legal program; and was elected President of the Latin American Law Students' Association.

Cristal is currently the HBA-NJ Vice President of the Northern Region, a Deputy Regional President for Region III of the HNBA, Co-Chair of the NJSBA In-

House Counsel Committee, and a member of the SHU Alumni Council. Cristal is a 2020 recipient of the HNBA's “Top Lawyers under 40” Award and a 2018 recipient of the “Corazon Del HBA-NJ Award.”

## 2020-2021 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

### ALBERTINA WEBB, ESQ. Vice-President of Southern Region

Albertina (Abby) Webb, Esq., Vice President of the Southern Region of the HBA-NJ, as many of you already know, is a longtime member of the HBA-NJ and author of *Querida Abby*. She is a partner at the Red Bank office of Hill Wallack, LLP, a full service law firm with its main office in Princeton, New Jersey. Other offices are located in Cedar Knolls, Yardley, Pennsylvania and New York City. As a team member of the Family Law Department, Abby and the team guide their clients through the divorce process, resolve related issues involving children, property and support, and provide services that address almost every other family law issues.



They all handle domestic violence and custody matters. Getting favorable results for their clients while keeping costs down, is part of their success. Frankly put, Abby says they are great problem solvers. Abby continues to serve as an active member of the New Jersey State Bar Association on its Family Law Executive Committee, where she is active on several sub-committees. She is a member of the Monmouth County Bar Association where she serves as an intensive settlement panelist, on the Ocean and Middlesex County Bar Association Early Settlement Panelists and recently completed her service for the State Wide Domestic Violence Working Group.

### JOSE A. CALVES, ESQ. Treasurer

Jose Calves is an Associate at Kauffman, Dolowich & Voluck, LLP, where he concentrates his practice on employment litigation, professional liability matters, and in representing consumer financial services providers in commercial litigation. Prior to joining Kaufman Dolowich & Voluck, he worked at a regional firm in New Jersey where he represented governmental and non-profit entities as outside general counsel and litigation defense counsel.



Jose clerked in the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division, for the Honorable Marie E. Lihotz, J.A.D. (Ret.).

He graduated from Rowan University before attending The George Washington University Law School, where he worked for the General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, and the Office of the New Jersey Governor's Counsel. In the community, Jose is a member of his Town's local land use board, a member of the Rowan University Alumni Association and is active in the Camden and Burlington County Bar Associations. Jose also volunteers his time with DeMolay International, a masonic youth organization, and is involved with local politics.



## 2020-2021 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

### JACQUELINE S. PEÑA, ESQ. Recording Secretary

Jacqueline S. Peña is a litigation associate in Cozen O'Connor's complex risk and litigation group. She focuses her practice on insurance defense and insurance coverage matters. She is a trial attorney and experienced litigator. Jacqueline has successfully completed seven trials, all resulting in verdicts in favor of her clients. Prior to joining Cozen O'Connor, Jacqueline worked at Travelers Insurance as Counsel, where she specialized in management and resolution of product liability, automobile liability, and commercial premises liability cases, which included analysis of additional insured and indemnification issues. Jacqueline has also argued before the New Jersey Appellate Division. She served as a judicial law clerk to



the Honorable Esther Suarez, J.S.C for the 2013 – 2014 term. Jacqueline received her Bachelor of Arts from Boston University and received her Juris Doctor from Seton Hall University. While in law school, Jacqueline was a member of the Seton Hall *Circuit Review* and was President of the Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA). She was a founder of MetroLALSA (an organization comprising the thirteen New York and New Jersey metropolitan law schools), and a member of the Mock Trial Board, where she competed in three national mock trial competitions. Jacqueline was a judicial intern for the Honorable Esther Salas, U.S.D.J. in Newark, New Jersey and was selected for the Seton Hall Law Civil Litigation Clinic.

### JESSICA ORTIZ, ESQ. Membership Secretary

Jessica Ortiz is a highly accomplished lawyer who draws on her extensive experience as an Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, where she served for over eight years, ending her tenure as Chief of the Narcotics Unit.



Ms. Ortiz represents companies and individuals in high stakes civil litigation and white collar criminal and regulatory investigations and individuals in high stakes civil litigation and white collar criminal and regulatory investigations and enforcement actions brought by the Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other federal and state regulators. She is also called upon

to conduct corporate internal investigations in the U.S. and abroad and to advise clients on crisis and risk management.

At the U.S. Attorney's Office, Ms. Ortiz supervised investigations and prosecutions of domestic and international money laundering, narcotics conspiracies and distribution, health care fraud and misconduct by physicians and medical practitioners involving prescription drugs and violent crimes. Prior to her supervisory appointment, Ms. Ortiz investigated and prosecuted a wide range of federal crimes including bank, mail, and wire fraud, computer crimes and misuse, corporate theft, corruption, racketeering and organized crime as well as murder, assault, and narcotics trafficking.

## 2020-2021 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

### MARIO HERNANDEZ, ESQ. General Counsel

Mario Hernandez is an Assistant Vice President and Assistant General Counsel in the Investments Law Section of MetLife Legal Affairs. In this role, Mario is responsible for legal support to MetLife's Affiliated Insurance Companies' Investments function (AIC), including supporting the Office of the Chief Investment Officer on Investment Committee related corporate governance and oversight. Mario regularly provides counsel on insurance law, regulatory, compliance and portfolio management matters, and supports the AIC's oversight of its affiliated investment manager, MetLife Investment Management (MIM). Mario also supports



MIM's Sustainable Investment Strategies team, in the evaluation and integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) initiatives. Prior to his current role, Mario served in a practice group coordinator capacity for MIM's Alternative Investments Unit and was responsible for legal matters relating to MetLife's investment alternative funds in-

cluding private equity, venture capital and hedge funds. Prior to joining MetLife in 2007, Mario was a Corporate Associate in Lowenstein Sandler's Investment Management and Tech Groups. Mario obtained his J.D. with Honors from Rutgers University School of Law.

### JESSICA RAMIREZ, ESQ. Press Secretary

Jessica Ramirez is as a trial attorney specializing in cases involving injury, medical malpractice, and sexual abuse. She was born in Puerto Rico and moved to New Jersey when she was eight years old. Jessica earned her J.D. from the Seton Hall School of Law and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Stockton University. She



has served on the NJ Ethics Committee, and as an Eminent Domain Commissioner for the State of NJ where she presided over cases dealing with condemnation and eminent domain. Jessica has appeared on national networks, such as Fox News, The Oxygen Network, HNL, Law & Crime Network, and Univision to discuss various legal topics.

From immigration matters and family law to criminal and municipal cases, Jessica brings a wealth of experience to her practice at D'Arcy Johnson Day. Jessica's immigration law background includes experience as the Managing Attorney for Catholic Charities of Newark-Immigration Assistance, as well as work as an independent contractor in the nation's capital,

where she focused on immigration matters and corporation investigations and audits involving privilege reviews. Jessica also operated her own law practice in Atlantic City, where she focused on Criminal Law, NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency Litigation, while serving as Conflicts Public Defender for the City of Atlantic City.

# 2020-2021 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

## KATHY I. OVIEDO, ESQ. Finance Director

Kathy is a member of Reed Smith's Life Sciences Health Industry Group practicing in the area of product liability litigation. Her practice focuses on defending pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers in mass tort litigations. Her experience includes working on single plaintiff matters coordinated cases, and multidistrict litigation in both federal and state courts. Kathy is also an active participant in the Lawyers Serving Warriors and Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) pro bono programs.

Prior to joining Reed Smith, Kathy served as a Prosecutor for several years. At the Prosecutor's Office, Kathy tried numerous



bench and jury trials involving homicides, sexual assaults, and weapons offenses, among others. She has extensive experience arguing motions before the court and receiving favorable outcomes.

Kathy was appointed to the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Jury Selection for Civil and Criminal Trials for the 2018-2020 and 2020-2022 terms. She presently serves on the Board of Directors of the Caribbean Baseball Academy and the Executive Board of the Rutgers Alumnae Women's Professional Network. She is also the Deputy Regional President of Region III of the Hispanic National Bar Association.

## LISETTE GUZMAN, ESQ. Record Keeper

Lisette L. Guzman is an Associate at McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP in the Commercial Litigation Group. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and her Master's in the Science of Teaching from Pace University in New York. She received her Juris Doctorate from Seton Hall University School of Law in 2016, where she was a member of the Seton Hall Circuit Review. Her comment "*In defense of disabled students: Why the stay-put provision protects student placement throughout the entire appeals process,*" was published in Seton Hall's Circuit Review Volume 12. Lisette was also a member of Seton Hall Law School's Interscholastic Moot Court Board.



She also competed in the Eugene Gressman Moot Court Competition and won second best brief. Lisette worked in the real estate industry as a licensed realtor during law school.

Prior to law school, she was a teacher in Brooklyn, New York. Lisette also served as a law clerk after graduation to the Hon. Robert J. Brennan, P.J.Ch. in the Superior Court of New Jersey, General Equity- Chancery Division, in Morris County. She is admitted to practice in the States of New Jersey and New York and the United States District Court, for the District of New Jersey. She is also a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association's Diversity Committee.

# 2020-2021 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

## JOSEPH L. LINARES, ESQ. HNBA Liaison

Joseph L. Linares is an Associate at Walsh Pizzi O'Reilly Falanga LLP and concentrates his practice on litigation, handling disputes concerning contracts, intellectual property, employment and torts as well corporate/business law and transactional work. In addition to servicing established corporate clients, he also provides counsel for non-profits, small businesses and start-up ventures.



a Teaching Associate for Legal Research & Writing. He was also awarded the Rutgers School of Law Alumni Senior Prize, bestowed on the graduate exhibiting the “greatest achievement during their entire law school career, and who has the greatest promise as a future member of the legal profession.” In addition to his J.D., Joseph also hold a B.A. from Villanova Univer-

sity and a dual M.B.A. with *highest honors* from Seton Hall University.

Prior to joining Walsh, Joseph spent his previous three years at Connell Foley LLP. Prior to working for Connell Foley LLP and during law school Joseph served as an Analyst for the Staff Attorney and Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey.

In addition to being the HNBA Liaison for the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey, Joseph is an Executive Board member of both the Rutgers Law School Alumni Association and the Hispanic National Bar Association.

Joseph earned his J.D. *cum laude* from Rutgers University School of Law, where he served as the Student Bar Association Vice President, a Fellow for the Minority Student Program, and



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## JORGE DE ARMAS, ESQ. Trustee-Region 1 (Hudson County)

Jorge R. de Armas, Counsel, is a member of Scarinci Hollenbeck's Public Law group. Mr. de Armas has fifteen years of experience and demonstrated ability in the representation of corporate, individual, and government clients. Mr. de Armas devotes his practice to the representing municipalities, counties, authorities and school boards,



with a focus on the day-to-day oversight and management of clients' legal needs in a variety of matters including Open Public Records Act requests, Open Public Meetings Act, and the Local Public Contracts Law.

Mr. de Armas also has experience in the area of corporate transactions and business law in the construction and commercial real estate development industry. He also has extensive trial and appellate level litigation experience, having successfully represented clients before the Federal District Court of New Jersey, and the New Jersey Superior Court and Office of

Administrative Law and the New York Supreme Court. Early on in his career, Mr. de Armas served as a law clerk to the Hon. Dorothea, O'C. Wefing, P.J.A.D. in the Superior Court of New Jersey Appellate Division.

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## SYLVIA-REBECCA GUTIERREZ, ESQ. Trustee-Region 2 (Essex County)

Associate at Gibbons focusing on Commercial & Criminal Litigation, Becky Gutiérrez concentrates her practice in general commercial and tax litigation at both the trial and appellate levels. Becky advises both individual and corporate clients in pre-litigation and litigation proceedings, and has experience in representing companies in connection with investigations by the Department of Justice. As part of her pro bono practice, Becky helps ex-offenders recently released from custody successfully reintegrate into their communities by resolving legal impediments such as municipal summonses and associated fines. She has also advocated on behalf of victims of domestic violence, civil liberties organizations, and



and alleged incapacitated adults in guardianship proceedings. She received her A.B. from Boston College. She was conferred her J.D., *cum laude*, and LL.M in Taxation from the University of Miami School of Law. After law school, Becky worked as a senior tax consultant for Deloitte Tax LLP. Becky then

had the honor of serving as a law clerk to The Honorable Carmen Messano, then-Deputy Presiding Judge of Administration in the New Jersey Superior Court's Appellate Division.

## 2020-2021 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### WENDY RUBENSTEIN, ESQ. Trustee-Region 3 (Bergen County)

Wendy Rubinstein is a partner in the Teaneck office of DeCotiis, FitzPatrick & Cole, LLP. As a member of the Municipal Law, Environmental Law and Green Practice groups, Ms. Rubinstein's practice crosses several disciplines, and includes substantial experience in environmental regulatory matters, providing general counsel to various public and private clients in the area including Municipal Land Use Law, Fair Housing Act, roadway construction project planning, real estate acquisitions, wetlands and open water fill permitting, industrial site transfers and cleanup, wastewater permitting, site remediation, historic preservation, tidelands, open space and compliance with the Open



Public Records Act. An active member of the Florida Bar, Ms. Rubinstein also works closely with the DeCotiis Corporate Practice Group and the Trusts and Estate Practice Group providing counsel for Florida transactional matters, business succession planning as well as family limited partnerships and limited liability companies created in order to shield and manage family assets. Ms. Rubinstein currently serves as Borough Attorney for the Borough of Emerson, Special COAH Counsel for several municipalities and has served as Special Counsel to the Policy Council for a federally funded early childhood education program.

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### JONATHAN BARRERA, ESQ. Trustee-Region 4 (Passaic County)

Jonathan Barrera is an assistant prosecutor at the Passaic County Prosecutors Office, where he has held that position since May 2015. Currently, he is assigned to the Narcotics, Gangs, and Violent Crimes Task Force. Prior to this assignment, Jonathan was assigned to the trial unit where he handled numerous jury trials, which included homicides, attempted murders, drugs and weapons related offenses. Prior to joining the Passaic office, he spent three years with the Hudson County Prosecutors Office. Before becoming an assistant prosecutor in 2011, he clerked for the Honorable Lourdes I. Santiago of the New Jersey Superior Court-Criminal Division.



Jonathan is a graduate of St. John's University and Seton Hall University School of Law. As a student at Seton Hall Law, he participated in the Juvenile Justice Clinic and was a member of the Latin American Law Students Association, where he held executive board positions of Co-President and Treasurer.

Jonathan has served as the Chair of the Union City Pipeline Program since its inception in 2014. Jonathan is a former President of the North Hudson Lawyers Club.

## 2020-2021 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### RACHEL A. GONZALEZ, ESQ.

#### Trustee-Region 5 (Morris, Sussex & Warren Counties)

Rachel is a partner at Day Pitney LLP, where she represents management in traditional labor law, employment litigation, and counseling. Rachel represents employers during union election campaigns, collective bargaining negotiations, arbitrations, and before the National Labor Relations Board. She also advises corporations on workforce planning during business changes including business sales, acquisitions, stock and asset purchases, plant closings, and relocations. Rachel also regularly counsels and trains employers on wage and hour issues, workplace investigations, the FMLA, the ADA accommodation process and compliance with other federal, state, and local employment laws.



She also routinely advises foreign corporations establishing U.S. operations on federal, state, and local employment and labor laws.

Rachel received her B.S. in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University and her J.D. with honors from the University of Connecticut School of Law. Prior to entering

the legal profession, Rachel worked as a human resources professional in unionized and non-unionized facilities in the United States and Sweden. In 2017, Rachel was Selected to “Forty under 40” by NJBIZ for “commitment to business growth, professional excellence and to the community.”

### PAUL D. NIEVES, ESQ.

#### Trustee-Region 6 (Union County)

Paul was born and raised in the Bronx. He attended Mercy College and graduated with departmental honors in Political Science and Criminal Justice. After graduating Seton Hall Law School, he clerked for the Honorable Hector E. DeSoto, J.S.C. He then pursued a career with the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office. His assignment with the Attorney General, include service as an Assistant Section Chief in the Tort Litigation Section, where he tried numerous jury trials. He is currently an assistant section chief in the Employment Counseling section where he represents and counsels management in disciplinary and labor disputes. He is a Certified Civil Trial Attorney.



Reserves and recently retired as a Major, with over 22 years of service. His duties as a Judge Advocate included service as the Fort Dix Prosecutor for three years, advising the Commanding General at the 353<sup>rd</sup> Civil Affairs Command and deploying with the 18<sup>th</sup> Airborne Corps to Baghdad, Iraq. His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal

with two oak leaf clusters and the Army Commendation Medal with four leaf clusters.

He is an active member of the Union County Bar and the RJ Hughes American Inns of Court, Union County Chapter. Paul is married to his high school sweetheart and has a 14 year old daughter.

Paul also had a distinguished career in the Army

## 2020-2021 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### ALEX J. FAJARDO, ESQ.

#### Trustee-Region 7 (Mercer County)

Alex J. Fajardo is an Associate in Stark & Stark's Nursing Malpractice Litigation Group. Alex concentrates his practice on medical malpractice claims, nursing home malpractice, and litigation with emphasis on wrongful death, catastrophic injury, negligence, and abuse claims arising in nursing homes, assisted-living facilities, psychiatric facilities, hospitals, boarding, and group homes. He secured numerous litigation victories for his clients in New Jersey trial and appellate courts. Alex is a member of Stark & Stark's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Prior to joining Stark & Stark, Alex worked for a personal injury firm in the Princeton area, where he concentrated his practice on nursing home malpractice and personal injury.



Alex received two Bachelor of Arts degrees from Florida International University in the majors of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Alex's outstanding academic undergraduate performance and personal accomplishments earned him a full-tuition scholarship to Delaware Law School – Widener University,

from where he received his Juris Doctorate. While at law school as a full-time student, Alex also worked as a law clerk at the Law Offices of Doroshow Pasquale Krawitz & Bhaya. He completed Delaware Law School's Intensive Trial Advocacy Program and earned the Judge Haile L. Alford Excellence Award, given by the Delaware State Bar Association.

### NATHANIA REYES, ESQ.

#### Trustee-Region 8 (Somerset & Hunterdon Counties)

Nathania Reyes is a second year associate at Parker Ibrahim & Berg ("PIB Law"), a full service national law firm that represents an array of corporate clients, ranging from Fortune 500 companies, national banks, insurance companies and financial services companies. She focuses her practice on civil and commercial litigation. Prior to joining PIB Law, Nathania worked as a Judicial Law Clerk in the New Jersey Superior Court, Civil Division for the Honorable Estela M. De La Cruz, J.S.C.



in several competitions. In addition, Nathania participated in the Community and Transactional Law Clinic, where she provided legal services to New Jersey nonprofit corporations, charter schools, individual artists and/or inventors, and start-up for-profit businesses. She also served as co-chair of the Association of Law Students (ALALS) and served as

historian for the Rutgers Minority Student Program. Nathania is a long time member of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (HBA-NJ) Young Lawyers Committee.

Nathania is a graduate of Rutgers Law School and Drew University. In law school, she co-chaired the National Moot Court Team and the Rutgers' Moot Court Board, through which she competed



## 2020-2021 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### RENATO H. RONQUILLO, ESQ. Trustee-Region 9 (Middlesex County)

Renato H. Ronquillo II is Corporate Counsel at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. Prior to Horizon, Mr. Ronquillo served as a Deputy Attorney General for the State of New Jersey and clerked for the Honorable Lisa P. Thornton, Assignment Judge for Monmouth County.



Mr. Ronquillo is also active in the Middlesex County Bar Association, and he looks forward to expanding the HBA-NJ's relationships with the Bar and county residents.

Mr. Ronquillo received his J.D. from Seton Hall School of Law and is admitted to practice law in New Jersey, New York and the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. He has been an active member of the HBA-NJ since law school and credits the organization for showing him what it means to be a leader, consummate professional, and a genuine and benevolent person.

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### ARIANNA MOURE, ESQ. Trustee-Region 10 (Monmouth & Ocean Counties)

Arianna Mouré is an Associate at Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi PC ("CSG") with the firm's Labor & Employment and Litigation Groups. Arianna is a litigator with substantial experience with employment law matters. Prior to joining CSG, she was an Associate at Day Pitney LLP. She is also a court certified mediator with a native fluency in Spanish.



Arianna earned her juris doctor with a concentration in Health Law and a Healthcare Compliance Certification from Seton Hall University School of Law. Before earning her J.D., Arianna was a pharmaceutical represent-

ative in the greater New York City area for two top pharmaceutical companies. While in law school, Arianna interned with Bristol-Meyer Squibb's in-house legal department in their employment law and privacy law group. During law school, Arianna also served as a judicial extern in both federal and state court under the tutelage of the Honorable Michael A. Shipp, United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey and in the New Jersey Superior Court for the Honorable Alberto Rivas; and worked for State Senator Bob Smith.

## 2020-2021 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### ROBERT LAMILLA, ESQ. Trustee-Region 11 (Camden & Burlington Counties)

Robert is an Associate at Parker McCay P.A. in Mount Laurel. Robert concentrates his practice on all aspects of environmental law. Prior to joining Parker McCay, Robert served as a Deputy Attorney General in the Environmental Enforcement and Environmental Justice Section of the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety and served Margaret Goodzeit, presiding Chancery Judge for Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties, handling the foreclosure caseload for all three counties. Additionally, Robert served as a law clerk assigned to the Office of Foreclosure in the Administrative Office of the Courts. Mr. Lamilla is admitted to the bar in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.



Prior to law school, Robert received his Bachelor of Arts from Austin College in Sherman, Texas where he double majored in Business Administration and Spanish.

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### JONATHAN I. AMIRA, ESQ. Trustee-Region 12 (Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem Counties)

Jonathan is a Special Deputy Attorney General / Acting Assistant Prosecutor for Gloucester County, New Jersey, currently assigned to the Special Litigation Section. Starting in January 2021, Jonathan will begin working in the Grand Jury Unit.

Jonathan was born in Manhasset, NY and raised in Princeton Junction, NJ. Jonathan attended Drew University (CLA '10) and Rutgers School of Law-Camden (CLAW '14), where he was awarded the Dean's Pro Bono Publico Award for Significant Service.



Jonathan is a member of the Rutgers Law Alumni Association, the New Jersey State Bar Association (Young Lawyers Division District Representative for Gloucester County, Legal Education, and Government, Public Sector, and Public Interest Lawyers Special Committees), The Gloucester County Bar Association (New Lawyer Trustee), and the HBA- NJ (Region 12 Trustee - Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland Counties). Jonathan also is the inaugural co-Chair of the Alumni Legal Professionals Affinity Group.

## 2020-2021 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### MARIA Z. CORTES, ESQ.

#### Trustee-Region 13 (Atlantic & Cape May Counties)

Maria represents clients in a variety of real estate, immigration, gaming law and litigation matters at Fox Rothschild LLP. Before joining Fox, Maria served as a law clerk to New Jersey Superior Court Judge Julio L. Mendez, Assignment Judge of the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage. Maria assisted with trial preparation, managed motions practice, conducted legal research and drafted legal opinions for general equity and prerogative writ actions. Prior to that, she served as a judicial extern to New Jersey Superior Court Judge Carol E. Higbee of the Appellate Division in Linwood, New Jersey.



Maria also worked as a summer associate and law clerk at a New Jersey-based law firm.

During law school, Maria was the managing Notes Editor for the Rutgers Journal of Law and Public Policy.

### LEIDY GUTIERREZ, ESQ.

#### Trustee at Large

Leidy joined Reed Smith LLP's Financial Industry Group in 2019. Leidy's practice focuses on Financial Services Litigation, where she represents financial institutions, mortgage lenders, and loan servicers in New Jersey and New York state and federal courts. Leidy has experience working on single plaintiff matters, as well as coordinated cases and multidistrict litigation.

She also has experience drafting pleadings, coordinating and conducting discovery, working closely with experts, and extensive motion practice. She has also advised clients in cases involving breach of contract, torts, immigration, family and other complex business disputes. Leidy is also committed to the firm's diversity initiatives. She is part of Reed



Smith's Hispanic/Latino Affinity Group known as *UNIDOS*. Prior to joining Reed Smith, Leidy served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Bonnie J. Mizdol, Assignment Judge, Superior Court of New Jersey. In addition to her clerkship experience, Leidy previously practiced at a Bergen County law firm where she focused on general litigation.

While in law school, Leidy interned for the Hon. James B. Clark, III., United District Court, District of New Jersey and for the Hon. Estela De La Cruz, Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division, Bergen County. She served as president of the Latin American Law Students Association and was a member of the law school's Diversity Council.

## 2020-2021 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### ALBA V. AVILES, ESQ. Trustee at Large

Alba V. Aviles is a senior associate at Day Pitney LLP. Alba represents private and public sector businesses in commercial litigation matters before state and federal courts, such as shareholder litigation, enforcement of restrictive covenants and intellectual property disputes. She has experience in employment matters, including drafting employee handbook policies, arbitration of employment, sexual harassment, retaliation, and hostile work environment claims. Alba served as a law clerk to now retired Honorable Walter Koprowski, Jr., Presiding Judge in the N.J. Superior Court's Chancery

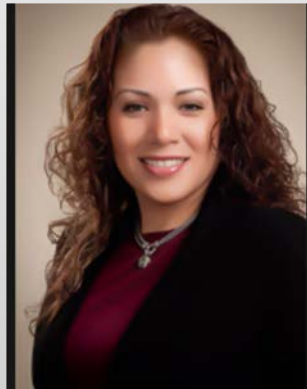


Division – General Equity/Probate Part in Essex County. During law school, Alba was a legal intern for the Honorable Michael Shipp, U.S.D.J., while he served as a magistrate judge, and the Honorable Faith Hochberg, U.S.D.J. in the District of the New Jersey.

Alba received her J.D. from Rutgers School of Law – Newark, where she served as Editor-in-Chief for the *Rutgers Race & the Law Review* and President of the Association of Latin American Law Students. Alba received her B.A. from Syracuse University.

### RAQUEL VALLEJO, ESQ. Trustee at Large

Raquel Vallejo is an associate in the law firm of Weinberger Law Group. After graduating from Seton Hall School of Law in 2004, she served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Thomas P. Zampino J.S.C. in the Essex County Family Part. Admitted to the New Jersey Bar, the New Jersey District Court Bar and the District of Columbia, Ms. Vallejo's practice has been and remains exclusively concentrated in matrimonial and family law, where she is dedicated to serving the best interests of her clients in all matters related to domestic violence, divorce, child custody, child support, alimony and the division of assets.



Not only has Ms. Vallejo been a member of the New Jersey Family Inns of Court, she is presently a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Morris County Bar Association and has served as a volunteer attorney for the Jersey Battered Women's Shelter through its legal advocacy program where she represented clients in num-

erous domestic violence proceedings. In 2014, she was recognized as a "New Jersey Super Lawyers-Rising Star". In addition for two years in a row, (2014 and 2015) Ms. Vallejo has been recognized for her outstanding achievement by The Latino American Who's Who.

## 2020-2021 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### ALAN B. CARDENAS, ESQ. Trustee at Large (5 Yrs +)

Alan B. Cardenas is Head of Corporate Legal for Siemens Energy, Inc., the US subsidiary of Siemens Energy AG, a \$30 Billion business focused on generation, transmission, industrial applications, electrification, alternative energy, and related technologies and services. His responsibilities include leading the teams that support the Governance, Regulatory, Government Affairs, Export Controls, Communications, Operations, Supply Chain, Technology, Cybersecurity, Data Privacy and Real Estate functions.

Previously at Siemens, Alan had similar Responsibilities, including serving as lead



lawyer for Securities (US), Venture Capital (Americas) and co-lead M&A lawyer for Canada and Latin America. Prior to his 12 years at Siemens, Alan was with Faegre Drinker Biddle and Debevoise & Plimpton. A frequent speaker on leadership, international business, digital transformation and diversity, Alan has been (i) twice a participant in the MCCA In-

House Counsel Leadership Summit, (ii) a member of the HNBA's *PODER25* Program, (iii) twice featured in *Hispanic Executive Magazine*, (iv) named a recipient of a Siemens US CEO Excellence Award, and (v) named one of the *Top Hispanic Lawyers Under 40* by the HNBA (2015).

### PERLA MEDINA, ESQ. Trustee at Large (YLC)

Perla is an associate at Parker Ibrahim & Berg, LLP, a full service national law firm that represents an array of corporate clients, ranging from Fortune 500 companies, national banks, insurance companies and financial services companies. She focuses her practice on consumer financial services and commercial litigation.

Prior to joining PIB Law, Perla served as a Law Clerk for the Honorable Alberto Rivas, Superior Court of New Jersey, where she was responsible for drafting opinions and bench memoranda for Law, Chancery and Criminal Division cases related to contract-



ual disputes, eminent domain issues, complex insurance claims, the Open Public Records Act and post-conviction relief. In addition to her clerkship experience, Perla previously worked for a Bergen County law firm where she focused on general litigation.

Perla is a graduate of Rutgers Law School-Newark and Ramapo College. While in law school,

Perla was a senior editor on Rutgers Race and the Law Review and a member of the Association of Latin-American Law Students. She also served as a student clinical associate in the Community and Transactional Lawyering Clinic at Rutgers.

## 2020-2021 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### YESSICA PINALES, ESQ. YLC Chair

Yessica J. Pinales is a Corporate Finance Associate in the Banking and Financial Services group at Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A., where she represents lenders and borrowers in connection with commercial financing, as well as, transactions, which include commercial real estate acquisition and refinancing, and non-real estate financing.



and Latina law students. Yessica earned her undergraduate degree at the State University of New York at Albany, where she was the recipient of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. Though Yessica was raised in New York, she takes pride in the cultural values of her native homeland, the Dominican Republic. She currently resides in Newark, New Jersey, with her with her husband. Outside

Prior to joining Wilentz, Yessica served as a judicial law clerk in the New Jersey Superior Court. She earned her law degree at St. John's University School of Law. From 2017-2018, Yessica served as President of the National Latino/a Law Student Association, a collective organization of law school chapters from all regions of the United States dedicated to to empowering Latino

of work, she enjoys traveling, running long distances, and she loves to dance.



## MELINDA COLON-COX

### Immediate Past-President



Melinda Colón Cox, Esq. is a Partner at the law firm of Parker Ibrahim & Berg LLP (“PIB Law”) in Somerset, New Jersey. PIB Law was founded in February 2011, and Melinda was their first associate, hired in October 2011. PIB Law is now a national firm with offices in Somerset, New Jersey; Costa Mesa, California; Chicago, Illinois; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Boston, Massachusetts. Melinda was elevated to a partner in August 2015, making her the first female partner in PIB Law’s Somerset headquarters. Mrs. Cox represents national banks and financial institutions, mortgage lenders and servicers, and small and large businesses with an emphasis in commercial litigation, contested foreclosures, consumer finance and protection, contract disputes, and state and federal regulatory compliance.

Prior to joining the law firm of Parker Ibrahim & Berg LLP, Mrs. Cox was a law clerk to the Hon. Michael A. Shipp, U.S.D.J. in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. Prior to her clerkship, Mrs. Cox was an associate at a large New Jersey firm, as a member of the Redevelopment Team, Redevelopment Strategic Business Unit Team and the Commercial Real Estate Team.

Mrs. Cox received her B.A. from Union College in Schenectady, New York, graduating *magna cum laude*. She received her J.D. from Rutgers School of Law – Newark, where she was the Senior Articles Editor for the Rutgers Law Review, President of the Association of Latin American Law Students, a Student Bar Association Class Representative and Co-Chair of the Student Affairs Committee for the Minority Student Program. Melinda has been on the Board of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey since 2008, co-founded the Young Lawyers Committee in 2009 and in 2015 reinstated the publication and circulation of the *Abogados* Newsletter. She is admitted to practice in New Jersey and New York and is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association (elected as a Fellow to the inaugural class of the 2015 Leadership Academy and member of the Diversity Committee and Professional Ethics Committee and Leadership Academy Committee), the Hispanic National Bar Association (“HNBA”), the New Jersey Women Lawyers Association, and the National Women’s Law Center’s Leadership Advisory Committee. Melinda also is a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court Civil Practice Committee and was recognized by the Executive Women of New Jersey as an Honoree at the 2018 Salute to Policy Makers Gala, and by the Association of Latin American Law Students at Rutgers Law School – Newark in 2017. Melinda has been named a New Jersey Super Lawyers Rising Star from 2014 through 2020 and received the HNBA’s Top Lawyers Under 40 in 2019. She was recognized as ROI-NJ Influencers - People of Color 2020, Difference Makers, and Latino Magazine’s 2020 Lawyers to Keep on the Watch.

Melinda’s parents were both born in Puerto Rico and came to New Jersey as young children. Striving to build the American Dream for their children, her parents worked tirelessly – sometimes 2-3 jobs each, to ensure that she and her family had the education and means to succeed. She grew up in both Jersey City and Rutherford, New Jersey, graduating Salutatorian from Rutherford High School. Melinda has an older sister and brother, Vivian Colón and Carlos Colón, as well as other siblings Carlos Manuel, Lillian, Jasmin, Michelle, Joshua, and William, her stepmom Nancy, and countless nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins who Melinda loves dearly.

Melinda is married to Kevin Edward Cox. She met Kevin in 2001 at Union College and they have been together ever since, married on September 24, 2011, with a few HBA-NJ members in her bridal party and many HBA-NJ friends in attendance. Melinda and Kevin were blessed with their first son, Logan Carter Cox, on November 21, 2018. The Cox family is fortunate to have Melinda’s mother, Hilda Camacho, living with them and watching over their precious son.

Family is everything to Melinda and it is the reason she has become the person she is today. Through the support and loyalty of her family, Melinda found her strength and her voice, knowing that her family will always stand beside her. Melinda dedicated the HBA-NJ’s 40th Anniversary theme to her entire family for all of their love, inspiration and encouragement: *Rise Up - Engage, Empower, Educate!*

## ELIA DIAZ-YAEGER

### Hispanic National Bar Association President



National President of the Hispanic National Bar Association, recognized by Best Lawyers since 2018 as well as several Best Lawyers 'Women in Law' Editions, a 2019 Lawyers of Color's 'Nations Best' Honoree, the 2017 winner of *Chambers USA Women in Law Future Leader – Gender Diversity* award, are just a few of the honors that recognize Elia Diaz-Yaeger as both a leader in law and in the advancement of diversity and advocacy programs. As a shareholder in Lugenbuhl's Insurance Law section, Diaz-Yaeger's primary areas of practice include industrial employment/long-latency lung disease litigation, insurance defense and coverage, environmental law, commercial litigation, and Board Governance/ Cybersecurity. In the last twenty-five years, Diaz-Yaeger has successfully defended thousands of occupational exposure claims, including exposure to asbestos and silica-containing products. She has served as defense counsel for insurers in commercial and residential property insurance cases resulting from hurricanes, hailstorms, and other first-party claims. Her experience enables her to provide clients with an early strategic plan, vigorous defense and efficient litigation. Certified in Cybersecurity Litigation, Diaz-Yaeger trains clients on protecting themselves regarding the ever-growing risk of data breaches.

Diaz-Yaeger actively promotes diversity and inclusion of women and Hispanics in legal professions through various professional organizations. She is a long-standing member of the Hispanic National Bar Association ("HNBA"), where she currently serves as President. Diaz-Yaeger is also a member of the International Association of Defense Counsel, Defense Research Institute, ABA, and Louisiana State Bar Association. She is a frequent speaker and CLE presenter. Additionally, she frequently leads round-table discussions at in-house corporate meetings; and serves as a diversity facilitator for the Louisiana State Bar Association.

In addition to her professional pursuits, Diaz-Yaeger also serves as on the Secretary of the Board of Directors, Federal Credit Union, a Community Development Financial Institution, whose mission is to strengthen the financial health of underserved communities through financial service and education. Her community contributions include Co-Founder and Fundraising Chair of *Candy Girls/Life Savers of New Orleans*, Co-Founder and Committee Member of *The A.D. Crossman Esperanza Library Project*, and an active member of the New Orleans Ballet Association. Diaz-Yaeger also volunteers and participates in several social and community programs including, *Taking Steps for Crohn's and Colitis*, *Save the Gulf Foundation*, *Raintree Foundation*, and *Habitat for Humanity*.



**THE HONORABLE JACLYN MEDINA, J.S.C.**  
**New Jersey Superior Court (Bergen County Vicinage)**

**The Honorable Jaclyn Medina, J.S.C. sits in the Family Part of the Superior Court of New Jersey's Bergen Vicinage. Before ascending to the bench, Judge Medina was a managing attorney in the Bergen Criminal Trial Region of the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender. She sat on the New Jersey Supreme Court's District Ethics and currently sits on its Minority Concerns Committees. She remains an active member of the HBA-NJ and is proud to have served as the organization's Vice-President of the North.**

**Judge Medina served as an adjunct professor for 11 years, where she taught undergraduate and graduate students as well as diplomats from various consulates and missions to the United Nations. She received her B.A. from the School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University and her J.D. from Rutgers Law School in Camden, New Jersey.**

# JUDICIARY OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## HISPANIC JUDGES

### FEDERAL CIRCUIT

Hon. Julio M. Fuentes U.S. Court of Appeals

### DISTRICT

Hon. Jose L. Linares U.S. District Court (ret.)  
Hon. Joseph H. Rodriguez U.S. District Court  
Hon. Esther Salas U.S. District Court  
Hon. John Michael Vasquez U.S. District Court

### ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Hon. Esmeralda C. Cabrera U.S. Immigration Court  
Hon. Alberto J. Riefkohl U.S. Immigration Court

### STATE SUPREME COURT

Hon. Roberto A. Rivera-Soto (2006-2011)  
Hon. Faustino J. Fernández-Viña

### APPELLATE DIVISION

Hon. Carmen H. Álvarez      Hon. Marianne Espinosa (ret.)      Hon. José L. Fuentes

### SUPERIOR COURT

Hon. Julio L. Méndez Assignment Judge for Atlantic and Cape May Vicinages

Hon. Yolanda Arianzen	Passaic Vicinage	Hon. Dennis V. Ospina	Middlesex Vicinage
Hon. Roberto Alcázar (ret.)	Union Vicinage	Hon. Mirtha Ospina	Hudson Vicinage
Hon. Maritza Berdote Byrne	Morris Vicinage	Hon. Lisa Pérez-Friscia	Bergen Vicinage
Hon. Miguel A. De La Carrera	Passaic Vicinage	Hon. Alberto Rivas	Middlesex Vicinage
Hon. Estela M. De La Cruz	Bergen Vicinage	Hon. Candido Rodriguez	Union Vicinage
Hon. Francisco Dominguez	Camden Vicinage	Hon. Mathias E. Rodriguez (ret.)	Middlesex Vicinage
Hon. Paul Escandón	Monmouth Vicinage	Hon. Nesle A. Rodriguez	Essex Vicinage
Hon. Mitzy Galis-Menendez	Hudson Vicinage	Hon. Yolanda Rodriguez	Camden Vicinage
Hon. Néstor Guzmán (ret.)	Passaic Vicinage	Hon. Marysol Rosero	Essex Vicinage
Hon. Álvaro L. Iglesias	Hudson Vicinage	Hon. Lourdes I. Santiago (ret.)	Hudson Vicinage
Hon. Pedro J. Jiménez, Jr.	Mercer Vicinage	Hon. Ramona I. Santiago	Essex Vicinage
Hon. Severiano Lisboa III	Hudson Vicinage	Hon. Mayra V. Tarantino	Essex Vicinage
Hon. Sandra Lopez	Salem Vicinage	Hon. Peter J. Vazquez	Essex Vicinage
Hon. Jaclyn Medina	Bergen Vicinage	Hon. Hector R. Velazquez (ret.)	Hudson Vicinage
Hon. Octavia Meléndez	Camden Vicinage	Hon. Lisa Miralles Walsh	Essex Vicinage
Hon. Marybel Mercado-Ramirez	Passaic Vicinage		

### DIVISION OF LABOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Hon. Alcides Cruz      Hon. Rose Mary Granados      Hon. Nilda Hernandez      Hon. José A. LaBoy

### ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Hon. Caridad F. Rigo

# CALENDAR OF SIGNATURE EVENTS 2020-2021

<b>November 2020</b>	Young Lawyers Committee (YLC) Thanksgiving Holiday Clothes & Food Drive
<b>December 3, 2020</b>	41 <sup>st</sup> Installation & Swearing-In Ceremony
<b>December 2020</b>	Annual Holiday Mixer and Toy Drive
<b>February 2021</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> Annual Corporate Counsel Conference
<b>March 2021</b>	2021 Women's Empowerment Leadership & Law (W.E.L.L.) Conference
<b>April 2021</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> Annual Sun, Surf & Seminars ( <i>if travel feasible</i> )
<b>May 2021</b>	Inaugural Mental Education & Nurturing Through Engagement (M.E.N.T.E.) Conference
<b>June 2021</b>	40 <sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Gala & Awards Dinner
<b>June - August 2021</b>	Northern New Jersey Membership Mixer/Joint Bar Mixer Southern New Jersey Membership Mixer/Joint Bar Mixer YLC Summer of Service Events YLC Annual Summer Mixer
<b>August 2021</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Financial Awareness & Community Training Seminar (F.A.C.T.S.) Conference
<b>September 2021</b>	Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration
<b>Annual Programs</b>	Law School Mentorship Program American Dream Pipeline Program

## Calendar of Meetings

November 21, 2020 (Board Retreat)  
 December 9, 2020  
 January 6, 2021  
 February 3, 2021  
 March 3, 2021  
 April 7, 2021 (South Jersey General Membership Meeting)  
 May 5, 2021  
 June 2, 2021  
 August 4, 2021  
 September 8, 2021 (North Jersey Membership & Nominations Meeting)  
 October 6, 2021

## HBA-NJ LIFETIME MEMBERS

Nicole Albano, Esq.  
Hon. Roberto Alcazar, J.S.C. (ret.)  
Jose Bastarrika, Esq.  
Milagros Camacho, Esq.  
Melinda Colón Cox, Esq.  
Monica de los Rios, Esq.  
Margarita Echevarria, Esq.  
Zulima Farber, Esq.  
Evelyn A. Faria-Waldman, Esq., CAMS  
Daniel Guadalupe, Esq.  
Reynold Lambert, Esq.  
Julia A. López, Esq.  
Daniel Mateo, Esq.  
Raj Mukherji, Esq.  
Arlene Quiñones Perez, Esq.  
Nuris Portuondo, Esq.  
Miguel Alexander Pozo, Esq.  
Hon. Alberto Rivas, J.S.C.  
Hon. Lourdes I. Santiago, J.S.C. (ret.)  
Hon. Esther Salas, U.S.D.J.  
David Wissert, Esq.  
Danielle Alvarez Wolf, Esq.



H I S P A N I C  
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A S S O C I A T I O N

*Highlights from 2019-2020*  
*HBA-NJ Events*



# WE VOTED

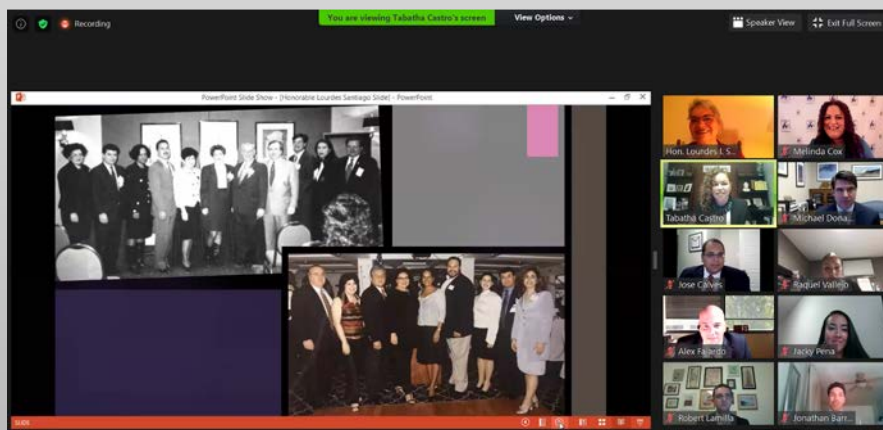


# VOTAMOS



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HBA-NJ'S 39th ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GALA & AWARDS DINNER

On September 30, 2020, the HBA-NJ held its 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Gala & Awards Dinner via Zoom. Due to your continued support and generous sponsors, the HBA-NJ was able to award a total of \$103,000, with \$53,000 going directly to Latinx students as scholarships, and \$50,000 donated to our Endowment Scholarship Fund. The HBA-NJ also recognized and honored: (i) Stark & Stark, P.C., who received our Law Firm of the Year Award; (ii) Sterling National Bank, who received our Corporate Partner of the Year Award; (iii) the Hon. Lourdes I. Santiago, J.S.C. (ret.), who received the Margarita Echevarria Trailblazer of the Year Award.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HBA-NJ'S HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION - THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LATINX VOTE & THE 2020 ELECTION

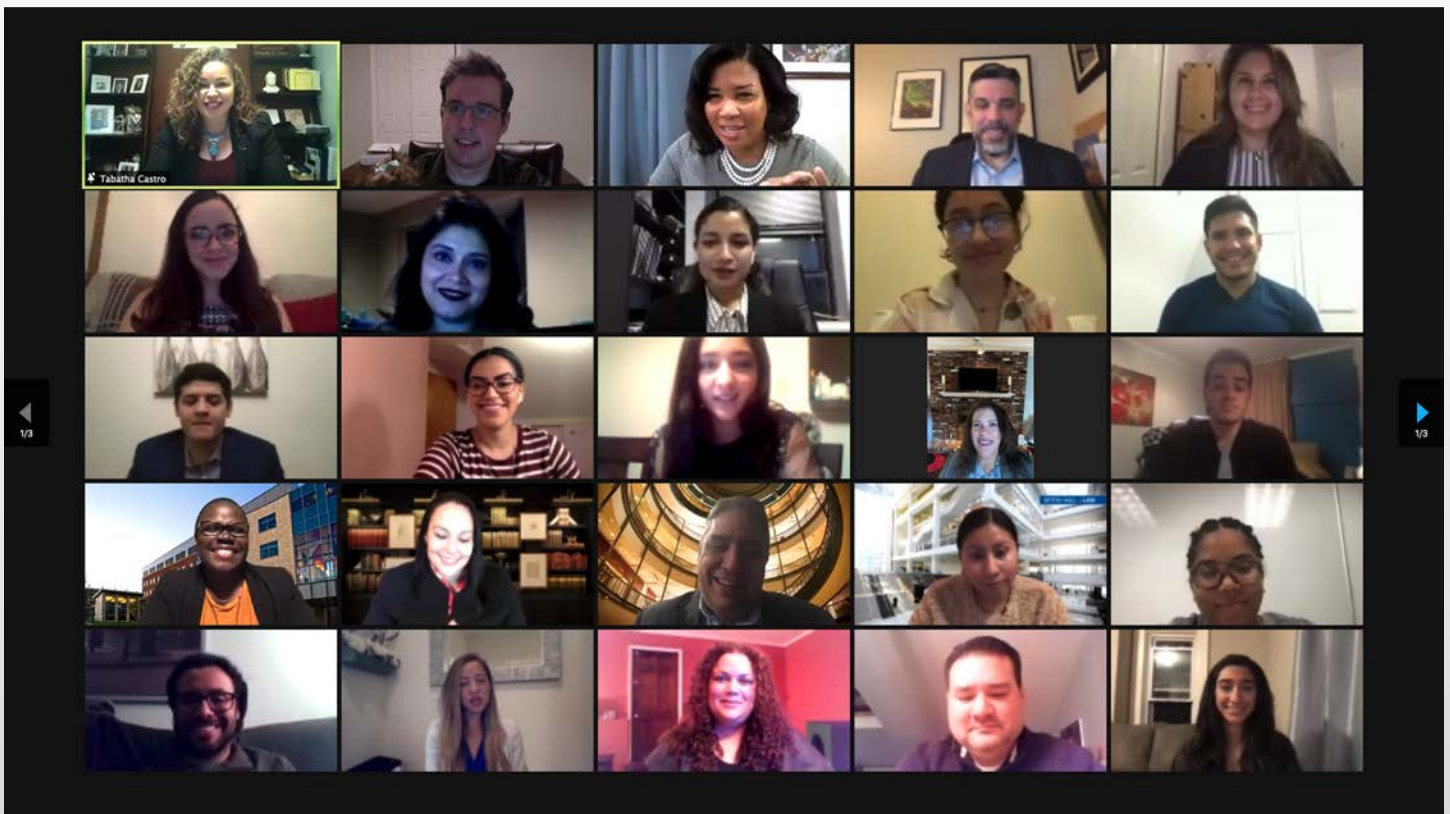
On October 15, 2020, the HBA-NJ held its Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration and an all-too important virtual webinar on *The Importance of the Latinx Vote & the 2020 Election*. The webinar featured a discussion with voting experts, *Myrna Perez, Director of the Brennan Center's Voting Rights and Election Program*, and *Jorge Vasquez, Director of the Power and Democracy Program with the Advancement Project*. The evening featured an engaging discussion on topics such as voter suppression and protection in New Jersey, and the panelists provided key information to ensure access to the ballot and the importance of the Latinx vote in the election.





# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HBA-NJ'S LAW SCHOOL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM KICK-OFF EVENT

The HBA-NJ held its annual Law School Mentorship Kick-off event virtually on November 24, 2020. The event not only allowed the mentors and mentees to meet each other, but it also consisted of a panel of speakers that shared a wealth of knowledge about navigating the legal profession during a pandemic. We had speakers discuss working at big law, governmental agencies, law clerkships, in-house counsel and more. We had the Honorable Jaclyn Medina, J.S.C. discuss her experiences on and off the bench. The other panelists included Camila Garces, Esquire, Maria Pedraza, Esquire, Renato Ronquillo, Esquire and Ruby Delarosa, Esquire. This year's program consists of mentees from seven different law schools, including Rutgers, Seton Hall, Delaware Law School, Touro, Pace, and University of New Hampshire.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HBA-NJ'S AMERICAN DREAM PIPELINE PROGRAM

The HBA-NJ's *American Dream Pipeline Program* was created to mentor and expose high school students to the legal profession and attorneys of similar backgrounds and experiences. HBA-NJ members serve as mentors to the students and participate in monthly meetings during which members and special guests, including elected officials and judges, speak to the students about the legal profession.

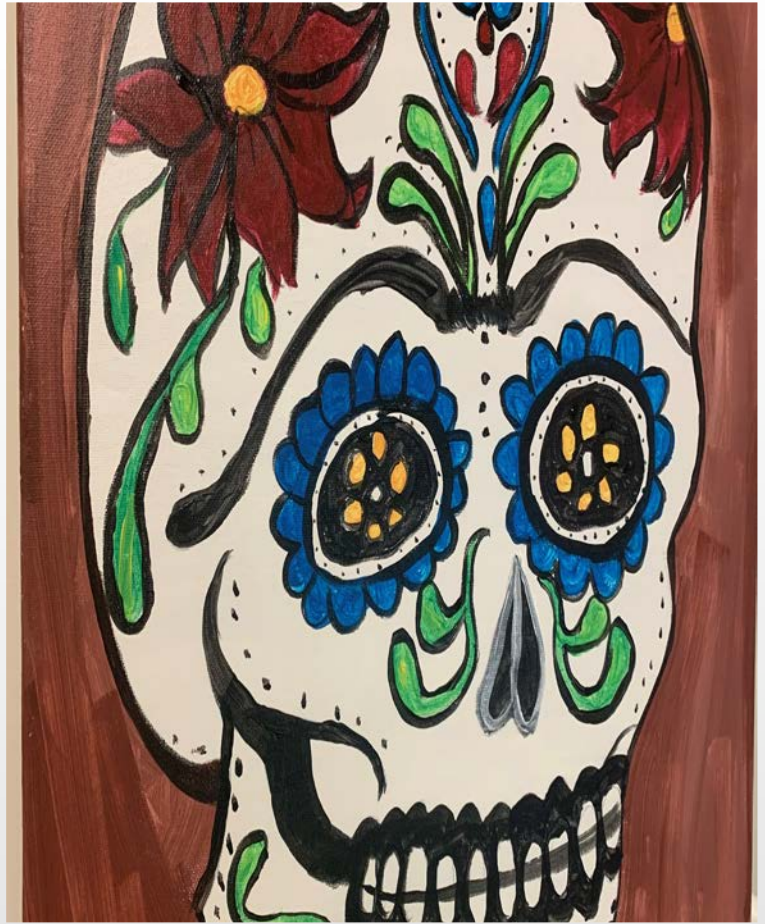


## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HBA-NJ'S YOUNG LAWYERS COMMITTEE 2020 EVENTS

The HBA-NJ's YLC held its first virtual Paint & Sip on October 29, 2020. Members enjoyed an evening of painting from their own home, with instruction from Wine & Design.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HBA-NJ'S YOUNG LAWYERS  
COMMITTEE 2019-2020 EVENTS (Cont'd)



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HBA-NJ'S YOUNG LAWYERS COMMITTEE 2020 EVENTS (Cont'd)

Between November 3, and November 20, 2020, the HBA-NJ YLC held its 1st Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive! With your generous donations, we were able to collect and donate over 2,000 items. We were able to help 5 food pantries/shelters with the donations received. Times are hard, but the HBA-NJ stood strong together to help those in need enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving. !



# THE HBA-NJ'S HURRICANE ETA RELIEF FUNDRAISER

In November 2020, Hurricane Eta unleashed a slow moving trail of devastation and heavy rains that created catastrophic flooding and mudslides across Central America. Water-soaked mountainsides slid, burying villages, swallowing up homes and turning roads into rivers. Many were forced to abandon their homes and many others are still stranded. Dozens of bridges and roads were destroyed by the torrential flows, making it more difficult to rescue people to safety. This devastation slammed an impoverished region that was already facing the economic hardship of the pandemic. In the wake of Hurricane Eta's destruction, the HBA-NJ quickly organized a fundraiser to support recovery and local relief efforts in Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. Please consider donating by texting "ETA" to 44321 or directly on our website, [www.njhba.org](http://www.njhba.org).

**DONATE TODAY!**

**HURRICANE  
ETA RELIEF  
FUNDRAISER**

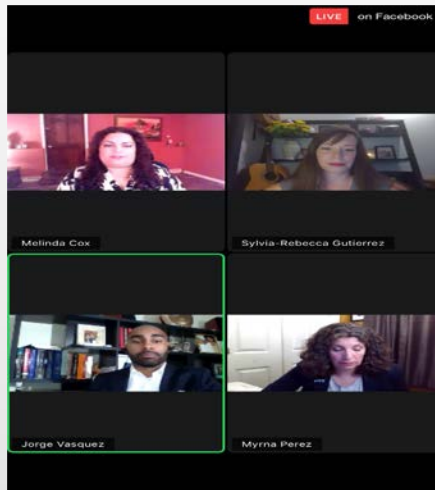
**HISPANIC  
BAR  
ASSOCIATION**

Hurricane Eta has brought catastrophic wind damage and widespread flooding to Central America. The Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey is collecting donations to support recovery and relief efforts in Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.

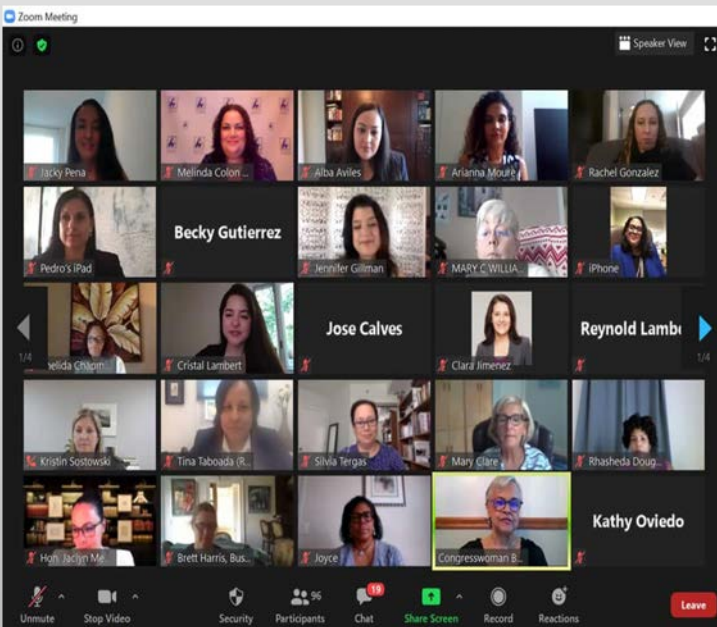
**DONATE TODAY AT [WWW.NJHBA.ORG](http://WWW.NJHBA.ORG) OR  
TEXT ETA TO 44321**

Funds will be collected by the New Jersey Hispanic Bar Foundation ("NJHBF") and will be used to support local relief efforts. Any and all donation amounts are much appreciated. Your donation is tax deductible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jessica Ortiz, HBA-NJ Membership Secretary at [jortiz@mololamken.com](mailto:jortiz@mololamken.com) or Julia Lopez, HBA-NJ Past President at [jalopez@reedsmith.com](mailto:jalopez@reedsmith.com).

# YEAR IN REVIEW 2019-2020



# YEAR IN REVIEW 2019-2020 (Cont'd)







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*Thank You to Our 2020-2021  
HBA-NJ Installation Sponsors,  
Supporters & Contributors*



**Beacon Hill Legal Staffing & Managed Review Services**

is proud to sponsor

**the 41st Annual Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony  
for the Hispanic Bar Association of NJ.**

**Congratulations**

**Reynold Lambert, Incoming President**

and the 2020-2021 Officers and Trustees.

**Here's to another successful year!**

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**Eileen Vega-Lambo**

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**PIB LAW IS HONORED TO  
SUPPORT THE HISPANIC  
BAR ASSOCIATION OF  
NEW JERSEY AND  
CONGRATULATES THE  
2020-2021 OFFICERS AND  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON  
THEIR INSTALLATION**

**A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR VERY  
OWN, MELINDA COLÓN COX, ON A STELLAR  
YEAR AS THE 40TH PRESIDENT, AND TRUSTEES  
PERLA MEDINA AND NATHANIA REYES!**



**BENEFACTOR/GOLD SPONSOR**

**STARK & STARK**

**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

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jalopez@reedsmith.com



**Leidy J. Gutierrez**  
Trustee at Large  
Associate, Princeton  
+1 609 520 6014  
lgutierrez@reedsmith.com



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*Cheers to this  
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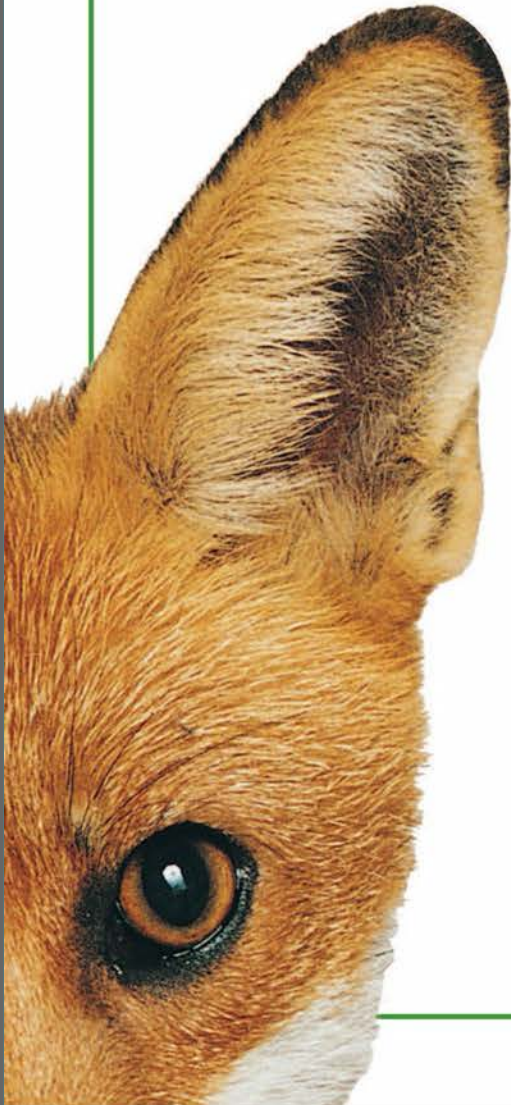
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Assistant General Counsel  
rbin@foxrothschild.com  
609.895.6737

**Maria Z. Cortes**

HBA-NJ Region 13 Trustee  
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609.572.2264

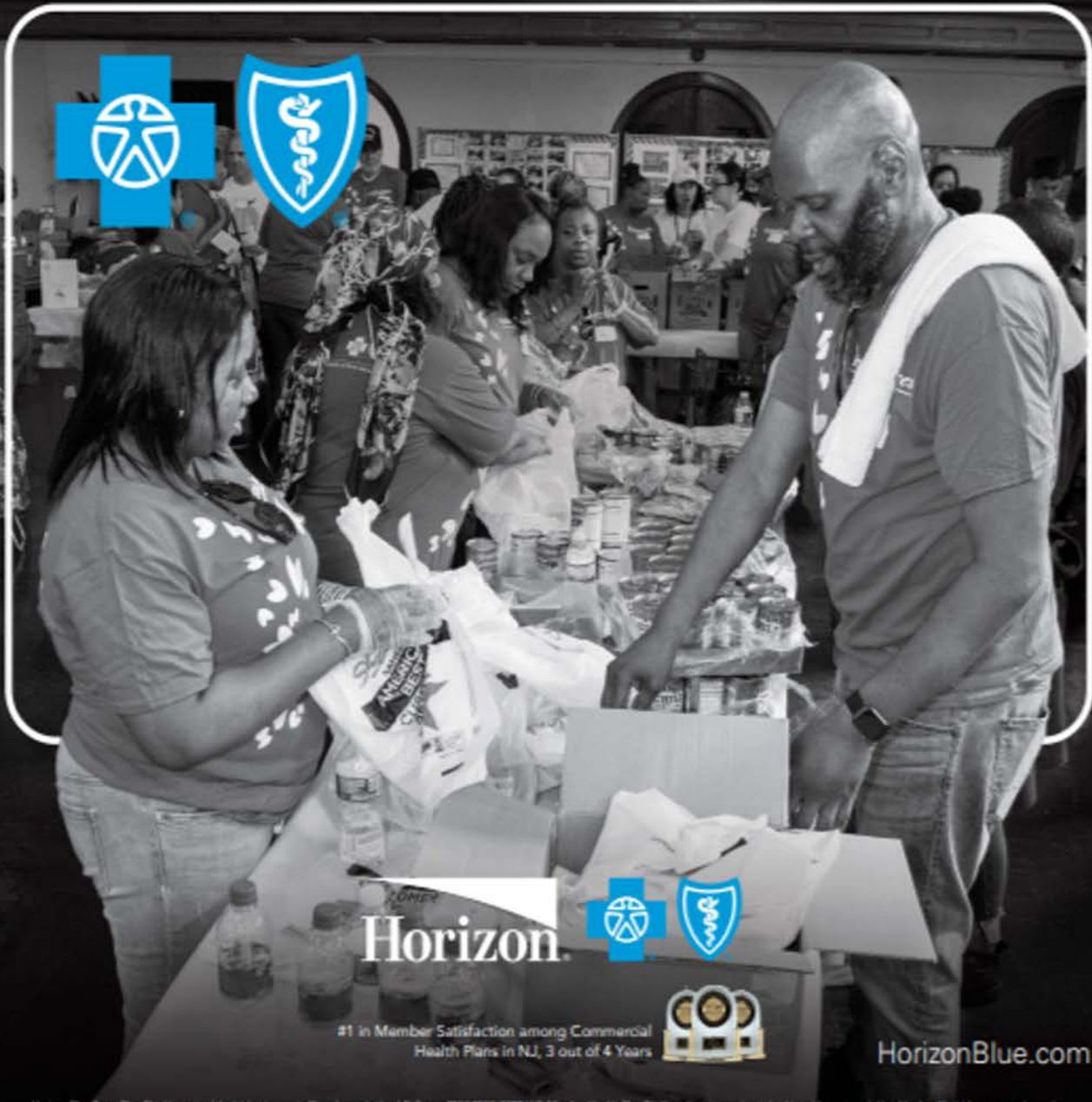
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**Lillian A. Plata**  
[lillian.plata@nplawus.com](mailto:lillian.plata@nplawus.com)



**Jong Sook Nee**  
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**Hector D. Ruiz, Esq.**  
Partner  
hruiz@walsh.law  
(973) 757-1019



**Joseph L. Linares, Esq.**  
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jlinares@walsh.law  
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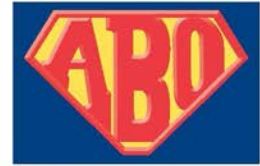
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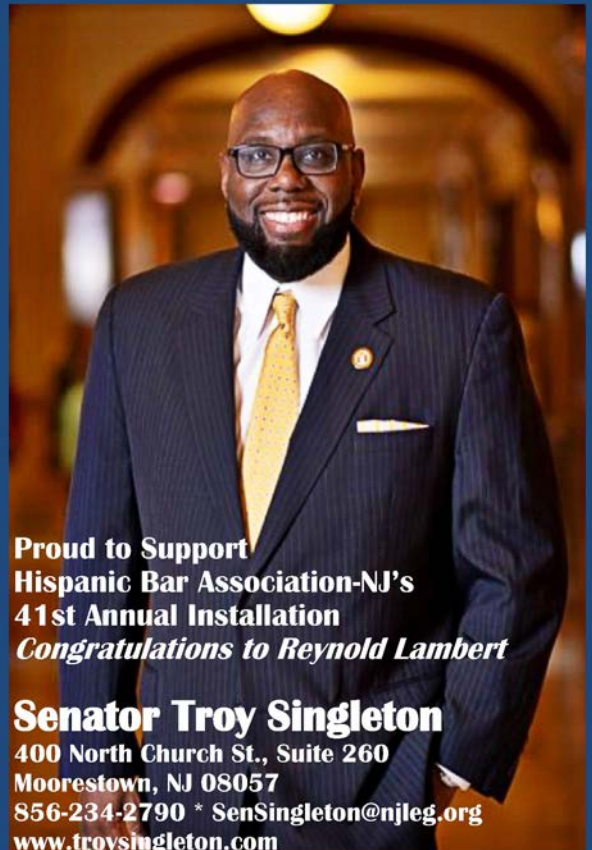


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