



Prudential

THE HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION
OF NEW JERSEY & PRUDENTIAL PRESENT



11th Annual Corporate Counsel Conference

The Role of Legal Counsel: Effective Corporate Stewardship
in the Age of COVID and Social Change

FEBRUARY 11, 2021 | 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

via Zoom



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

9:10 a.m.

Welcome Remarks

Reynold Lambert, President, Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (HBA-NJ)
Partner, Lowenstein Sandler LLP

John D. Rosero, HBA-NJ Corporate Counsel Conference Honorary Co-Chair
Vice President & Chief Compliance Officer
Prudential Workplace Solutions, Distribution & Marketing

9:30 a.m.

Navigating COVID-19:

Tackling Important Business and Legal Issues in the Age of COVID

Antonio Fernández, *Chief Compliance Officer & Chief Privacy Officer, PSE&G*
José Ramón González, *Executive Vice President & General Counsel, CNA*
Jennifer Zachary, *Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Merck & Co., Inc.*

Moderator: Miguel Alexander Pozo, Esq., HBA-NJ & HNBA Past President
Partner, Cozen O'Connor

10:45 a.m.

Keynote Speaker

Introduction: Alba V. Aviles, Trustee, HBA-NJ, Senior Associate, Day Pitney LLP

Ann Kappler, Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Prudential Financial Inc.

11:05 a.m.

Pathways to becoming General Counsel:

The Importance of Diversity and Inclusion, and Tips for Advancement During COVID

Guillermo Bichara, *Senior Vice President & General Counsel, Linde plc*
Stephen Gauster, *Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Metlife, Inc.*
Marcela Kirberger, *General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Roche Diagnostics Corp.*

Moderator: Melinda Colón Cox, Immediate Past President, HBA-NJ
Partner, Parker Ibrahim & Berg LLP

12:05 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Hector D. Ruiz, Past President, HBA-NJ & Current HNBA Region III President
Partner, Walsh Pizzi O'Reilly Falanga LLP

2020-2021 HBA-NJ PRESIDENT



Reynold Lambert

Partner, Lowenstein Sandler LLP

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 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 is the President of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. 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.

Rey is a recipient of the HNBA’s “Top Lawyers under 40” Award (2020). He also was an Honoree at the Association of Latin American Law Students’ *Fiesta Con Sabor* at Rutgers Law School (2020).

2020-2021 CORPORATE COUNSEL CONFERENCE HONORARY CHAIR



John D. Rosero

*Vice President & Chief Compliance Officer
Prudential Workplace Solutions, Distribution &
Marketing*

John Rosero is Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer of Prudential Financial's Workplace Solutions Group, Distribution & Marketing. He is also a member of the senior leadership team for Prudential's Law, Compliance, Business Ethics, and External Affairs Department.

Since joining Prudential in 1997, John has served in various roles of increasing responsibility in the Law and Compliance Departments for several business units, including Chief Compliance Officer for Retirement and Group Insurance. In addition, he served as Chief Legal Officer for Group Insurance, Prudential Annuities Distributors, and as Chief Counsel of the Shared Services and Distribution Legal Team supporting retail and wholesaling distribution, marketing, data analytics, and other key business areas for Individual Life Insurance and Prudential Annuities.

John is a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court's Committee on the Rules of Evidence, a Trustee for the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey, and the Co-Chair of the American Bar Association's International Trade Committee. He also served as Deputy Regional President (Region III) for the Hispanic National Bar Association. Previously, John was appointed as a Senior Fellow in the Division of Global Affairs at Rutgers University and an adjunct professor at the Rutgers Business School.

Over the last 30 years, John has been an active volunteer leader for various mentoring and advocacy organizations for children, including having served on the Board of Trustees of the Essex County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). CASA is an independent, court-authorized, nonprofit organization that works through professionally trained and supervised volunteers to promote the welfare of foster children in Essex County, New Jersey.

In recognition of his professional accomplishments and extensive community service, John is a recipient of several awards, including the Professional Lawyer of the Year Award from the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law, Attorney of the Year from the Hispanic National Bar Association, and the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award.

John earned a Ph.D. in Global Affairs from Rutgers University, LL.M. (Corporation Law) from New York University Law School, and J.D. from the State University of New York Law School. Furthermore, he earned the Certified Regulatory and Compliance Professional (CRCP) designation from the FINRA Institute at the Wharton School.

2021 CORPORATE COUNSEL CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR



Alba V. Aviles

Senior Associate, Day Pitney LLP

Alba V. Aviles is an 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 handling employment matters, including drafting employee handbook policies, arbitration of employment, sexual harassment, retaliation, and hostile work environment claims. Alba also represents mortgage companies, loan servicers and other financial institutions in the defense of claims by borrowers. Additionally, Alba has experience drafting EB-5 petitions for immigrant investors, real estate developers and regional centers.

Alba served as a law clerk to The Honorable Walter Koprowski, Jr., Presiding Judge in the New Jersey Superior Court's Chancery Division - General Equity/Probate Part in Essex County. There, Alba gained experience in business litigation, as well as probate litigation. 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. Prior to law school, Alba worked in New York City for two start-ups, where she gained unique perspective on the growth and development of these businesses. Alba received her Bachelor of Arts from Syracuse University.

2021 CORPORATE COUNSEL CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR



Cristal Reyes Lambert

Legal Counsel, Bed Bath & Beyond, Inc.

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 joining BB&B, Cristal was an associate at Waters, McPherson, McNeill, P.C., where she concentrated her practice on civil litigation, government representation, property tax appeals and tax abatements. From 2012-2013, she worked as a judicial law clerk in the New Jersey Superior Court, Chancery Division for the Honorable Hector R. Velazquez, P.J.Ch.

Cristal earned her B.A. from Drew University *magna cum laude* and J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law. While in law school, she was selected for the Immigrant’s Rights/International Human Rights Clinic; the Interscholastic Moot Court Board, through which she competed nationally and won several brief and oralist awards; Prudential Financial Inc.’s prestigious summer legal program; and was elected President of the Latin American Law Student’s Association. She also served as a Law Student Liaison for the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (HBA-NJ) and a volunteer for the Seton Hall University School of Law Center for Social Justice.

Cristal is currently the HBA-NJ Vice President of the Northern Region, Deputy Regional President for Region III of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), Co-Chair of the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA) In-House Counsel Committee, and a member of the Seton Hall University School of Law Alumni Council. She is the National Immediate Past Chair for the HNBA Young Lawyers Division, a former chair of the NJSBA Minorities in the Profession Section, past president of the North Hudson Lawyers’ Club, former chair of the HBA-NJ’s Women’s Empowerment Leadership and Law Conference, and former Vice-Chair of the American Dream Pipeline Mentorship Program. Through these roles, she has spearheaded, participated in, and spoken at CLE panels, conferences, networking events and service programs for the New York and New Jersey legal community.

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.” She was also recently selected to participate in the HNBA’s prestigious Latina Leadership Academy.

2021 CORPORATE COUNSEL CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR



Hector D. Ruiz

Partner, Walsh Pizzi O'Reilly Falanga LLP

Hector D. Ruiz is a litigation partner at the law firm of Walsh Pizzi O'Reilly Falanga LLP, where he concentrates on complex commercial litigation in federal and state courts. He is also a Past President of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (HBA-NJ), and currently serves as Region 3 President for the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA). Hector has substantial experience representing national and regional clients in commercial matters, and he represents businesses across a wide spectrum of industries. Previously, Hector was a partner at the law firm of Connell Foley LLP, where he also focused on complex commercial litigation. Prior to entering into private practice, Hector was a law clerk in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey to the now-retired Chief Judge, the Honorable Jose L. Linares.

In addition to serving as President, Hector has served in a number of different roles in the HBA-NJ over the years. In addition to his work with the HBA-NJ, he currently serves on New Jersey State Bar Association Judicial Administration Committee. In 2014, Hector was appointed to the New Jersey Supreme Court Civil Practice Committee for 2014-2015 term. He has also served as Member of the Third Circuit Merit Selection Committee for United States Bankruptcy Court Judgeships, as well as a Member of the Union County College Paralegal Studies Advisory Committee. Hector also actively participates in other organizations including the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey, the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey Historical Society, the Essex County Bar Association, and the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Hector has spoken on a variety of topics including complex litigation, federal practice and issues of diversity. For example, he served as a panelist during the HBA-NJ's 10th Annual Corporate Counsel Conference on February 5, 2019, for the CLE entitled "Protecting Your Brand: Strategies for Handling Social Media Abuse" where Hector shared Intellectual Property insights. Hector was also a panelist at the HNBA's Corporate Counsel Conference, held in 2016, in Las Vegas, Nevada, where he and his co-panelists presented on how the health and life sciences industry works to develop and protect their products/offerings, including successful partnering in drug development and protection of associated intellectual property. Hector was also a participant in a seminar entitled "Practicing Before the District Court and the Bankruptcy Court in New Jersey: Federal Practice for the State Court Practitioner," held at the U.S. District Court in Newark, New Jersey, in 2015. He was also a panelist for a seminar entitled "United for Justice: A Collaborative Conversation" hosted by the Rutgers Law School in Camden, New Jersey, in 2017.

In 2019, Hector received the Professional Lawyer of the Year Award, New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in Law. He is also a recipient of the 2019 Defensores de la Justicia Award, presented by the Latin American Law Students Alliance at Rutgers Law School, at the 16th Annual Defensores de la Justicia Banquet. In addition, in 2014, Hector was part of a team named Litigation Department of the Year by the New Jersey Law Journal.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Ann Kappler

*Executive Vice President & General Counsel
Prudential Financial, Inc.*

As executive vice president and general counsel at Prudential Financial, Ann Kappler is the head of Law, Compliance, Business Ethics and External Affairs. She was appointed in September 2020, after serving as the company's deputy general counsel and head of External Affairs for six years. In that role, Kappler oversaw Prudential's corporate legal functions, including litigation, regulatory law, and corporate investigations. She also led the company's public policy advocacy, managing all federal, state and international government affairs activities.

Prior to joining Prudential in 2009, Kappler was a partner at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr in Washington, D.C., where she focused on emerging issues at the intersection of regulation, legislation and litigation. She has held a variety of other roles with expanded responsibilities, including as a litigation partner at Jenner & Block and as general counsel at Fannie Mae.

Kappler serves on the boards of directors of the Pro Bono Partnership and the National Health Law Program, where she is chair, and serves as program co-chair for the Georgetown Law Corporate Counsel Institute. She has served on the boards of the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs; Appleseed Foundation and Global Rights; and was a longtime member of the board of trustees of the Lowell School in Washington, D.C., where she served as chair. Kappler is a member of the Board of Visitors of the Dartmouth College Rockefeller Center for Public Policy. She has earned several awards such as 2018 Executive Women of New Jersey Policymakers honoree.

Kappler graduated from Dartmouth College, magna cum laude, and received her law degree from New York University School of Law, where she was editor-in-chief of the Law Review. She clerked for Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit Judge Abner Mikva and U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Harry Blackmun.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Guillermo Bichara

*Senior Vice President & General Counsel
Linde plc*

Guillermo Bichara was named Senior Vice President & General Counsel in March 2019. He is responsible for the company's global Law, Compliance and Corporate Governance functions.

Bichara joined Praxair in 2006 as director of legal affairs at Praxair Mexico. In 2007, he was named vice president and general counsel of Praxair Asia, a position he held for four years. In 2011, Bichara was named associate general counsel with responsibility for Praxair Europe, Praxair Mexico and corporate transactions. In 2013, he was promoted to associate general counsel and assistant secretary before being named Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary in 2015, a position he held until the consummation of the Praxair-Linde merger in 2019.

Prior to Linde, Bichara served as corporate counsel at Cemex, Mexico's global leader in the building materials industry, and was a foreign associate and counsel, respectively, at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom and White & Case.

Bichara is admitted to practice in New York and Mexico.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Antonio Fernández

*Chief Compliance, Privacy, & NERC Officer
PSEG*

Antonio Fernández was named PSEG's chief compliance officer in April 2016. In this role, he is responsible for overseeing PSEG's compliance program, which involves managing PSEG's respected ethics and compliance group and its highly successful NERC compliance group.

Mr. Fernández joined PSEG from General Electric (GE), where he served as GE Power's global ombuds leader and executive counsel. During his five years at GE, he held various roles of increasing responsibility in GE's compliance program, serving as chief compliance officer for GE's nuclear business and as GE's corporate ombuds leader.

Mr. Fernández started his career at the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)'s Office of the General Counsel through its Honors Program. While at the NRC, he worked on a variety of issues relating to the licensing and operation of nuclear power plants. Mr. Fernández then served as nuclear counsel for Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), where he oversaw all legal matters related to PG&E's nuclear power plants. After PG&E, he joined NextEra Energy as senior attorney, where he counseled NextEra's nuclear fleet on all matters, including licensing, acquisitions, security, NRC enforcement, employment, environmental and complex commercial transactions.

He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Dayton; a Juris Doctor degree (Order of Barristers) from St. Mary's University School of Law and a Master of Laws in international and comparative law from Georgetown University Law Center.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Stephen Gauster

*Executive Vice President & General Counsel
MetLife, Inc.*

Stephen W. Gauster was named executive vice president and general counsel of MetLife in May 2018. He is responsible for leading the company's global legal operations, Corporate Ethics and Compliance Group, and Corporate Secretary's Office.

Gauster was appointed MetLife's interim general counsel in July 2017. He joined the company in January 2016 as senior vice president and chief counsel of the General Corporate Section of Legal Affairs.

Prior to joining MetLife, Gauster was senior vice president, chief corporate counsel and assistant secretary at Assurant. In that role, he was responsible for the company's corporate center legal functions and corporate governance of the parent company and subsidiaries. Before Assurant, Gauster was vice president, corporate counsel and assistant secretary at Prudential Financial from 2004 to 2008. During his tenure, he supported Prudential's treasury functions, capital market transactions and public company disclosure. He also served as secretary to the Finance and Investment Committees of the Board of Directors. Previously, Gauster was an associate with Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton and a law clerk for the Honorable Jane R. Roth, U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit.

Gauster is admitted to practice law in New York, New Jersey (as in-house counsel) and the District of Columbia (inactive). He earned his law degree from Harvard Law School, where he was books and commentaries editor of the Harvard Law Review. He also earned a master's degree from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree from Harvard College.

Gauster is a member of the New York State Bar Association Committee on Securities Regulation, the Society of Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals, the Association of Corporate Counsel, the National Association of Corporate Directors, the American Bar Association, and the Hispanic National Bar Association. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Northfield Mount Hermon School and Chair of its Investments Committee.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



José Ramón González

*Executive Vice President & General Counsel
CNA*

José Ramón González is Executive Vice President & General Counsel for CNA located in Chicago, Illinois. In this role, José serves as principal counsel to the Chief Executive Officer, senior management team and board of directors.

José began practicing law in 1995 as a corporate associate at Weil, Gotshal, and Manges. In 1999, he joined AIG focusing on acquisitions, joint ventures and investments relating to its insurance, asset management, and other financial services businesses globally, eventually becoming Deputy General Counsel.

In 2011, José became General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Torus, a Bermuda-based start-up commercial insurance organization, where he played an active role in Torus' European expansion and the ultimate sale of the company.

From April 2014 through June 2019, José served as Chief Legal Officer of QBE North America, where he was also a member of QBE North America's Executive Committee and QBE's Global Legal Leadership Team.

With a longstanding commitment to the community, José currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of LatinoJustice PRLDEF, and on the boards of the Bass Museum of Art and the Spain-US Chamber of Commerce.

José holds a B.S. in Economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from the Columbia University School of Law.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Marcela Kirberger

*General Counsel & Secretary
Roche Diagnostics Corporation*

An executive member of the North America Diagnostics Executive Committee, Marcela serves as the General Counsel & Corporate Secretary for Roche Diagnostics Corporation and Roche Diagnostics Operations. In addition to legal oversight of Roche Diagnostics and Roche-affiliate organizations in the diagnostics industry, Marcela provides executive leadership to Roche's Commercial, Legal, Privacy and Ethics Compliance teams and initiatives. Marcela's rich global experience in the life sciences, Pharma and medical device sectors, coupled with her broad international legal tenure working across diverse practices such as commercial transactions, intellectual property and litigation, makes her uniquely qualified as Roche's general counsel.

Marcela's pragmatic approach to counsel is to look beyond traditional perspectives to help solve operational business challenges, as well as incubating company innovation across process, people and products while maintaining a commitment to integrity and ethical behavior. She is passionate about helping others achieve their full potential. In her role on the executive leadership team, Marcela actively collaborates across disciplines with her peers and others to ensure Roche's strong business performance and reputation in the life sciences industry.

Most recently, Marcela served as General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer of Leica Microsystems, which is a Danaher Company with global headquarters in Germany. Additionally, Marcela held senior global and US legal roles at Sandoz International and the Novartis Group of Companies and was a securities litigation associate at the firm of Lowenstein Sandler in New Jersey.

A native of Argentina, Marcela earned her law degrees from Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey and the Catholic University of Argentina, in Buenos Aires. She is licensed by the New York and New Jersey Bar associations and speaks fluent Spanish and conversational German. Marcela is based in Indianapolis.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Jennifer Zachary

*Executive Vice President,
General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Merck & Co., Inc.*

Jennifer Zachary joined Merck as Executive Vice President and General Counsel in April 2018. She serves as a legal advisor and Corporate Secretary to the Board of Directors and company executives, leads Merck's Office of General Counsel and sets the company's global legal strategy. She is also responsible for the company's Global Safety & Environment, Global Security, and Aviation functions.

Prior to joining Merck, Jennifer was a partner and associate at the international law firm Covington & Burling, LLP. She practiced in the area of pharmaceutical and medical device regulatory law and advised a wide range of manufacturers and trade associations on compliance with government requirements for the development, manufacture and sale of their products.

Earlier in her career, Jennifer served as an Associate Chief Counsel for Enforcement at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

She is a member of the bar associations for the District of Columbia, California and New Jersey.

Jennifer holds a B.S./B.A. in Biology and Chemistry from Arizona State University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

MODERATOR BIOGRAPHIES



Miguel Alexander Pozo

Partner, Cozen O'Connor

With over 20 years of legal experience, Miguel is a nationally recognized business litigator and trial lawyer, trusted advisor, bar association leader, respected Latino trailblazer, and mentor.

In addition to being a bar association leader, Miguel has devoted his career to social justice issues and to creating equal opportunities for people of diverse racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds on a local and national level.

Most recently, Miguel served on the American Bar Association's (ABA) Joint Task Force on Reversing the School-to-Prison Pipeline and on the ABA's Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice (COREJ). He was also the 36th National President of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA).

Having recently returned to private practice as a partner with Cozen O'Connor, Miguel represents Fortune 500 companies in the luxury, consumer/retail goods, and automobile industries in high-stakes business disputes, internal investigations, complex management-side employment litigation, and trademark infringement matters. He is based out of Cozen's Minneapolis office where he recently relocated to be closer to family but also regularly works out of the firm's Newark, New Jersey office.

Prior to joining Cozen O'Connor, Miguel served in various senior in-house positions at Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC. He was Deputy General Counsel & Head of U.S. Litigation as well as Acting General Counsel—making him one of only a handful of Latino lawyers to lead the U.S. legal department of a global corporation. Miguel was previously a partner with Lowenstein Sandler LLP in Roseland, New Jersey and founded that firm's Washington D.C. office in 2014 before leaving the firm to join MBUSA.

In addition to his legal practice, Miguel has provided much-needed leadership within the broader legal profession, including serving as Northern Vice Chair for the Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee (JPAC) of the New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA) (2012-2014) and as the 30th President of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (HBA-NJ) (2009 -2010) during the HBA-NJ's 30th Anniversary. During his year as President, Miguel founded the HBA-NJ's Corporate Counsel Conference in partnership with John Rosero, Vice President and Chief Legal Officer for Prudential Group Insurance.

Miguel's work in the legal profession has received numerous awards and accolades including "Professional Lawyer of the Year" by the NJ Commission on Professionalism in the Law, a "Lifetime Achievement" award from the New Jersey Law Journal, "Top Latino Lawyer" in the U.S. from Latino Leaders Magazine, and two "Top Lawyer Under 40" Awards, among others.

He is also frequent speaker on a range of topics including ethical pitfalls for in-house counsel, conducting effective internal investigations, and attorney-client privilege issues, among others. Miguel is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia, Georgia, Minnesota, and New Jersey, as well as various federal courts including the U.S. Supreme Court.

A native New Yorker, raised in New York City and Miami, Miguel now resides in Minneapolis with his wife and two sons.

MODERATOR BIOGRAPHIES



Melinda Colón Cox

Partner, Parker Ibrahim & Berg LLP

Melinda Colón Cox is a commercial litigation partner at Parker Ibrahim & Berg LLP (PIB Law). Her current practice focuses on the representation of 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, bankruptcy, contract disputes, trademark and intellectual property disputes, and state and federal regulatory compliance. Melinda was the firm's first associate and the first female partner in PIB Law's Somerset headquarters. Prior to joining PIB Law, Melinda was a law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Michael A. Shipp for the District of New Jersey. Prior to her clerkship, she was an associate at Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer's Redevelopment, Redevelopment Strategic Business Unit and Commercial Real Estate teams.

As a passionate advocate for the law, Melinda has been very active in the New Jersey legal community for many years. She was the 40th President of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey ("HBA-NJ") in 2019-2020, during which she helped the Board raise an unprecedented \$103,000 for the HBA-NJ's 2020 annual scholarships for law school and high school students, and for the HBA-NJ's Scholarship Endowment Fund. She is currently serving as the HBA-NJ's Immediate Past President, and has been a member of its board since 2008. She co-founded the HBA-NJ's Young Lawyers Committee and reinstated the publication of its Abogados Newsletter. She remains involved and committed to the HBA-NJ's Judicial Prosecutorial Appointments Committee (JPAC"), serving as its Co-Chair, and is a mentor in the HBA-NJ's law school and high school mentorship programs. She serves as a voice and advocate for the Latinx community and legal profession, often speaking on various panel discussions and events on important and timely issues, such as the 2020 elections, financial literacy, and women empowerment.

Mrs. Cox also is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association (elected as a Fellow to the inaugural class of the 2016 Leadership Academy and member of the Diversity Committee, the Professional Ethics Committee, and the Leadership Academy Committee), the Hispanic National Bar Association ("HNBA"), the New Jersey Women Lawyers Association, the Executive Women of New Jersey ("EWNJ"), and a past member of the National Women's Law Center's Leadership Advisory Committee. Melinda further serves on the New Jersey Supreme Court Civil Practice Committee, and is a proud Board member of the Rutgers Law School (Newark) Alumni Association, the Rutgers Law School Alumna Network, and the Cristian Rivera Foundation, which is a nonprofit that raises awareness and supports impacted families and medical research for Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG), a rare, inoperable brain tumor that typically effects children between the ages of 5 and 9.

Melinda has been recognized for her commitment to the legal profession, diversity and inclusion, and to the Latinx community. She 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, the New Jersey Law Journal's 2019 New Leaders of the Bar, ROI-NJ Influencers – People of Color 2020 Difference Makers, and one of Latino Magazine's 2020 Lawyers to Keep on the Watch. She also was recognized by the EWNJ 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.

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. She is admitted to practice in New Jersey and New York.

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES



Sylvia-Rebecca (“Becky”) Gutiérrez

Associate, Gibbons P.C.

Becky Gutiérrez concentrates her practice in general commercial litigation at both the trial and appellate levels. Becky advises both individual and corporate clients in pre-litigation and litigation proceedings.

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 alleged incapacitated adults in guardianship proceedings.

Becky was raised in Hudson County with her three sisters. Her mother, Sylvia, was born in Puerto Rico and her father, Ariel, was born in Cuba. 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, where she analyzed tax implications of the international operations of U.S. and foreign multinational companies and assisted with U.S. and international regulatory compliance. 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.

2021 HBA-NJ CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

25th 30th

Women's Empowerment Leadership & Law (W.E.L.L.) Conference

May

Mental Education & Nurturing Through Engagement (M.E.N.T.E.) Conference

Summer

2nd Annual Financial Awareness & Community Training (F.A.C.T.) Seminar

40th Annual Scholarship Awards Gala

Northern New Jersey Membership Mixer

Southern New Jersey Membership Mixer

Young Lawyers' Committee Summer Mixer

September

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

Continuing Programs

American Dream Pipeline Program

Civics Education Initiative

Law School Mentorship Program

Professional Development/CLE Programs

REGISTER AT WWW.NJHBA.ORG/EVENTS-CALENDAR

SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT LEADERSHIP & LAW CONFERENCE

2021



Thursday, March 25, 2021
Tuesday, March 30, 2021
6 PM - 7:30 PM



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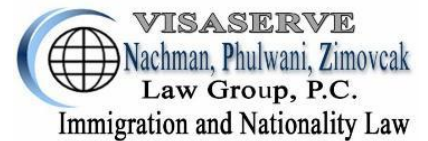
DIAMOND



PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CORPORATE COUNSEL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Reynold Lambert, HBA-NJ President

Honorary Co-Chair

John D. Rosero

Conference Co-Chairs

Alba V. Aviles

Cristal Reyes Lambert

Hector D. Ruiz

Committee Members

Alan B. Cardenas

Melinda Colón Cox

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