



44<sup>th</sup> Annual

INSTALLATION *and* SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF  
President Jacqueline S. Peña and the  
2023-2024 Officers and Trustees

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023 | THE CRYSTAL PLAZA | LIVINGSTON, NEW JERSEY



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## HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY'S 44TH ANNUAL INSTALLATION AND SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

With special congratulations to Lowenstein associate **Jennifer A. Monge** for her position as Trustee at Large & Co-Chair of the Young Lawyers Committee, **Jacqueline S. Peña** for her new position as President, and the **2023-2024 officers and trustees!**

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NEW YORK

PALO ALTO

NEW JERSEY

UTAH

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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# 2023-2024 HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## OFFICERS

Jacqueline S. Peña, Esq., President  
Alex J. Fajardo, Esq., President-Elect  
Cristal Lambert, Esq., Vice President of Northern Region  
Jose A. Calves, Esq., Vice President of Southern Region  
Alba V. Aviles, Esq., Treasurer  
Jonathan Barrera, Esq., Finance Director  
Nathania Reyes, Esq., Recording Secretary  
Arianna Mouré, Esq., Membership Secretary

## APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

Michael J. Plata, Esq., General Counsel  
Maria Marrero, Esq., Co-Press Secretary  
Janett P. Smyth, Esq., Co-Press Secretary  
Shirley D. Moreno, Esq., Co-Historian  
Sylvia-Rebecca Gutierrez, Esq., Co-Historian  
Joseph L. Linares, Esq., HNBA Liaison

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jorge R. de Armas, Esq., Trustee - Region 1 (Hudson County)  
Dennise E. Mejia, Esq., Trustee - Region 2 (Essex County)  
Christine A. Soto, Esq., Trustee - Region 3 (Bergen County)  
Carmen Diaz-Duncan, Esq., Trustee - Region 4 (Passaic County)  
Jorge Sanchez, Esq., Trustee - Region 5 (Morris, Sussex & Warren Counties)  
Lisette Guzman, Esq., Trustee - Region 6 (Union County)  
Margo Chaly, Esq., Trustee - Region 7 (Mercer County)  
Owen Gonzalez, Esq., Trustee - Region 8 (Somerset & Hunterdon Counties)  
Lina Martinez, Esq., Trustee - Region 9 (Middlesex County)  
Jose Roman, Esq., Trustee - Region 10 (Monmouth & Ocean Counties)  
Francisco F. Guzman Andrade, Esq., Trustee - Region 11 (Camden & Burlington Counties)  
Jonathan I. Amira, Esq., Trustee - Region 12 (Cumberland, Gloucester, & Salem Counties)  
Maria Z. Cortes, Esq., Trustee - Region 13 (Atlantic and Cape May Counties)  
Angelica M. Mercado, Esq., Trustee at Large  
Wendy Rubinstein Quiroga, Esq., Trustee at Large  
Franklin Paez, Esq., Trustee at Large  
Ileana Montes, Esq., Trustee at Large (5 Yrs +)  
Jennifer Monge, Esq., Trustee at Large (YLC Co-Chair)  
Dianna Santiago, Esq., YLC Co-Chair  
Albertina Webb, Esq., Immediate Past President

## LAW SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Kate Isidro, Rutgers School of Law-Camden  
Luisa Nin Reyes, Rutgers School of Law-Newark  
Matthew Andrade, Seton Hall Law School

# PROGRAM OF EVENTS

## **WELCOME BY MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES**

Anna María Tejada, Esq.  
HBA-NJ Past President 2013-2014 | Partner, Saul Ewing, LLP

## **INTRODUCTION OF HBA-NJ IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

Carlos M. Bollar, Esq.  
HBA-NJ Past President 2015-2016 | Partner, Archer & Greiner, PC  
Julia A. López, Esq.  
HBA-NJ Past President 2018-2019 | Partner, Reed Smith LLP

## **REMARKS**

Albertina “Abby” Webb, Esq.  
HBA-NJ Past President 2022-Yesterday | Partner, Hill Wallack LLP

## **CORAZÓN DEL HBA-NJ AWARD PRESENTATION**

Presented by Albertina “Abby” Webb, Esq.

## **INTRODUCTION OF HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT**

Owen Gonzalez, Esq.  
HBA-NJ Trustee Region 8 Somerset & Hunterdon Counties | Associate, Reed Smith LLP

## **REMARKS**

Daniel Mateo, Esq.  
HBA-NJ Past President 2011-2012, HNBA National President | Partner, Holland & Knight LLP

## **SWEARING-IN OF THE 2023-2024 OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

Introduction of Justice Michael Noriega  
By Jorge A. Sanchez  
HBA-NJ Trustee Region 5 Morris, Sussex & Warren Counties | Partner, Riker Danzig, LLP

## **SWEARING-IN OF PRESIDENT**

Introduction of the Honorable Jaclyn V. Medina, J.S.C.  
By Margo Chaly, Esq.  
HBA-NJ Trustee Region 7 Mercer County | Chief of Staff,  
NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA)

## **INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT**

Cristal Lambert, Esq.  
HBA-NJ Vice President of the Northern Region | Senior Corporate Counsel, Bed Bath & Beyond Inc.

## **PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS**

Jacqueline S. Peña, Esq.  
HBA-NJ President | Associate, Bowman and Brooke LLP

## **CLOSING OF OFFICIAL PROGRAM**

## PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE HBA-NJ

Margarita Echevarria, Esq. 1980-1981  
Hon. Severiano Lisboa, III, J.S.C. 1981-1982  
Hon. Héctor E. Desoto, J.S.C. 1982-1983  
Zulima V. Farber, Esq. 1983-1984  
Hon. Hector R. Velázquez, J.S.C. 1984-1985  
Grissele Camacho-Pagán, Esq. 1985-1986  
Joseph A. Ginarte, Esq. 1986-1987  
Virginia Class-Matthews, Esq. 1987-1988  
Raúl F. Tous, Esq. 1988-1989  
Hon. Roberto Alcázar, J.S.C. 1989-1990  
Edwin Flores, Esq. 1990-1991  
Daniel R. Guadalupe, Esq. 1991-1992  
Aída L. Cabello, Esq. 1992-1993  
Hon. Estela M. de la Cruz, J.S.C. 1993-1994  
Rafael Pérez, Esq. 1994-1995  
Hon. José L. Linares, U.S.D.J. 1995-1996  
Hon. Lourdes I. Santiago, J.S.C. 1996-1997  
Marco A. González, Esq. 1997-1998  
Ramón de la Cruz, Esq. 1998-1999  
Hon. Maritza Berdote Byrne, J.S.C. 1999-2000  
Ileana Montes, Esq. 2000-2001  
Hon. Esther Salas, U.S.D.J. 2001-2002  
Hon. Pedro J. Jiménez, Jr., J.S.C. 2002-2003  
Carlos Ortiz, Esq. 2003-2004  
Camelia M. Valdes, Esq. 2004-2005  
Liza M. López, Esq. 2005-2006  
Ivette R. Álvarez, Esq. 2006-2007  
Milagros Camacho, Esq. 2007-2008  
George Rios, Esq. 2008-2009  
Miguel Alexander Pozo, Esq. 2009-2010  
Suzette T. Rodriguez, Esq. 2010-2011  
Daniel Mateo, Esq. 2011-2012  
Louis Acevedo, Esq. 2012-2013  
Anna Maria Tejada, Esq. 2013-2014  
Michael J. Plata, Esq. 2014-2015  
Carlos M. Bollar, Esq. 2015-2016  
Arlene Quiñones Perez, Esq. 2016-2017  
Hector D. Ruiz, Esq. 2017-2018  
Julia A. López, Esq., 2018-2019  
Melinda Colón Cox, Esq., 2019-2020  
Reynold Lambert, Esq., 2020-2021  
Tabatha L. Castro, Esq., 2021-2022  
Albertina “Abby” Webb, Esq., 2022-2023

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

November 1, 2023

Querida HBA-NJ Familia,

Dear HBA-NJ Familia, esteemed colleagues, and friends,

Bienvenidos! It is an honor to welcome you to the 44th Annual Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (“HBA-NJ”). Thank you for joining us today as we embark on a journey into the 2023-2024 term. It is a profound honor to serve as your newly elected president. As a child of Honduran immigrants, born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey, I am truly privileged and humbled by the trust you have bestowed on me to move this organization forward. And that is exactly our theme for the 2023-2024 term - Pa'lante: Progress through Purpose.

Pa'lante means “forward” and to move forward and progress we must remember our purpose. We achieve this as an organization by reflecting on the path we have traveled and the path that lies ahead. Over the years, the HBA-NJ has steadfastly advanced the interests of Latino lawyers and strived to make our legal community and community-at-large more inclusive and diverse. We have shattered barriers and achieved remarkable milestones. But let us not forget that our journey is far from over. Tonight, I share with you the core tenets that will guide our efforts this coming year.

Firstly, education and mentorship are paramount. In an ever-evolving legal landscape, it is our responsibility to ensure that our current members and the next generation of Latino lawyers have the knowledge and support they need to succeed. Through mentorship, resources for advancement, and providing opportunities for each other, we can create a more inclusive and equitable legal profession. In 2013, my dear mentor, Anna María Tejada, started the American Dream Pipeline Program to mentor high school students in urban areas, which is still going strong in three different schools throughout the State. This year, with the help of HBA-NJ Past Presidents, we will expand our pipeline programs. We will partner with law firms to expand and strengthen our high school programs. We will also launch a pipeline program designed to help our members achieve in-house counsel roles and equity partnerships and “rainmaker” status. We must actively promote and support diversity within our ranks and these new programs will stand as a testament to our legacy. By empowering our members and future lawyers with information, we can pave the way for progress through purpose.

Secondly, the continuation of our legacy programs will be the cornerstone of our work. We will continue our robust programming with our signature events, such as our Corporate Counsel Conference, Women’s Empowerment Leadership and Law Conference, our 43rd Annual Scholarship Gala and Awards Dinner and our 21st Annual Sun, Surf and Seminars taking place in Roatan, Honduras. We will continue to offer timely and meaningful CLE programs through our newly attained CLE accreditation. Importantly, we will ensure that the voices and concerns of the Latino community are not only heard but acted upon by federal, state, and local officials, including advocacy for a diverse bench. By joining forces with other bar associations and our sponsors, we can amplify our impact. Our voices matter, and we must use them to create change. As we embark on this journey together, I wish to express my gratitude to the outgoing president and the entire board for their dedication and tireless efforts over the past year. Abby – you are the “Corazon” of the HBA-NJ. Your dedication to this organization is unmatched and we are all immensely grateful for your contributions to the HBA-NJ. I’d also like to thank our generous sponsors for their commitment to the HBA-NJ, its mission, and its membership. It is with your support that we are able to effectuate progress. I am also grateful to my law firm, Bowman and Brooke LLP, for investing in me and the future of the HBA-NJ.



Lastly, I thank my family—my mother Iris Peña, my sister and brother-in-law, Janet and James, and my nephews LJ and Cristian. I am especially thankful to my father, my viejo, who is looking down on us from heaven this evening beaming with pride. Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility. I look forward to working with all of you to make the 2023-2024 a year of progress through purpose. Pa'lante!

Con agradecimiento,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jacqueline S. Peña'.

Jacqueline S. Peña Bowman and Brooke LLP Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey, President  
Jacqueline S. Peña, Esq. *Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey President*



## MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

November 1, 2023

Hola HBA-NJ Familia:

I can hardly believe that a year has passed since I was installed as the 43rd President of this great organization in November 2022. Thanks to all of you who came and supported me and my board. And while I knew that it would happen, the day has finally arrived when I am no longer the President. So much has happened this year and I hope that I lived up to your expectations and made you all proud. I tried very hard to continue to honor the goals and mission the HBA-NJ is known for.

My initial involvement with the HBA in 2008 never had me thinking of ever becoming the president. Naturally, each year I became more involved by taking leadership positions. So as president this past year, it was important to me that we continued having signature programs like our Nuts & Bolts program with the New Jersey Women's Lawyers Association; co-sponsoring and presenting with our affinity bars; and highlighting the Federal Bar Association with Victor Afanador, current president and Ricardo Solano, immediate past president. We participated and sponsored an online forum on court security and judicial safety with The Honorable Esther Salas, past president of the HBA and the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stockton University with Ret. Judge Julio Mendez. We provided CLE credits for the virtual programs we hosted, from the domestic violence program to JAG officers, to M.E.N.T.E and co-sponsored a Life Sciences Summit at Reed Smith with Natalya Johnson, Esq., then president of the Garden State Bar Association. For me, the highlight of my year was the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Sun Surf & Seminar in Puerto Rico. Attendance was robust and the CLE sessions were phenomenal. Highlighting domestic violence and donating to Matria, an organization supporting self empowerment for victims of domestic violence and Femicidio in Puerto Rico, was necessary and rewarding. Visiting El Comedor de la Kennedy, a food bank that feeds about 1500 families per month, bringing them bags of rice and a donation to feed them for the next few weeks, not only brought tears to my eyes at the joy we brought them, but touched my heart forever. My phenomenal Sun Surf & Seminar committee worked hard for me and I will never forget their passion to make the event the success that it was. The sponsors were once again by our side and their generosity can never be ignored or forgotten. We have successful programs because of our sponsors, committee members and of course, attendees and members who support us by showing up and standing alongside us.

I was blessed to speak at the American Dream Pipeline Program at Union City High School last week where 39 students ate every word I said about the importance of "paying it forward" and joining the ranks as attorney or judge. Finally, the Atlantic City High School pipeline program was started in January 2023 thanks to Maria Cortes, Esq. It was her persistence and assistance that got the program running.

While I will no longer be president, I join the ranks of a stronger, more powerful active elite group called immediate past presidents and I will be in great company. I want to thank my board including my counsel Rich Hernandez and Arianna Moure who supported me throughout the year. Broken shoulder, covid and bombardment of press releases did not stop my board from supporting me. We focused on discrepancies in treatment of Hispanics throughout the state and continue to monitor the ongoing litigation. My good friends who have been by my side the entire year, whispering in my ear, giving me constructive criticism, guidance and support. Julia, Carlos, Anna Maria, Camelia, Jeralyn Lawrence, Evelyn Padin, Annette Quijano, Nuris Portuondo, Guillermo Artilles, Miguel Pozo, Michellene Davis: you are forever my buds and your late night or early morning calls with me were invaluable. Your friendship means the world to me. Thank you. My friends, colleagues and leaders of the affinity bars: we continue to lift as we rise and soon finally will have our leadership dinner. Jacqueline Pena, Esq. is inheriting a dedicated and motivated board.



Finally, I want to acknowledge my husband and family who gave up a lot of time for me to be the 43rd president. I'm looking forward to spending more time with my husband of 41 years and our 6 grandkids.

¡Nos vemos!

Albertina Webb, Esq.  
*Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey Immediate Past President*



# HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

*The National Voice of the Hispanic Legal Community*

October 19, 2023

**President**

*Daniel Mateo*

**President-Elect**

*Christina Guerola Sarchio*

**COO & Executive Director**

*Alba Cruz-Hacker*

**General Counsel**

*Yesenia M. Gallegos*

**Finance Director**

*Julia A. López*

**Treasurer**

*Adrian Sierra*

**Secretary**

*April K. Toy*

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*Lian de la Riva*

**VP External Affairs**

*Edward Carlson*

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*Julia A. Lopez*

**VP Programs – Su Futuro**

*Grissel Seijo*

**VP Regions & Affiliates**

*James Aliaga*

**Chief Compliance Officer**

*Rosevelie Márquez Morales*

Dear HBA-NJ Family:

I write as the National President of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) and as a proud HBA-NJ past president to congratulate HBA-NJ on another successful year. President Abby Webb has done great work and continued the tradition of exceptional leadership. HBA-NJ has a long history of making important contributions to the Hispanic legal profession in New Jersey. Those contributions and efforts are instrumental to ensuring that we have a diverse and talented pipeline of future lawyers and that – together – we are building a sense of belonging and community. The work of the HBA-NJ compliments that of the HNBA and we at the HNBA are grateful for our ongoing organizational affiliation and friendship.

I am particularly excited to attend the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony on November 1, 2023, and connecting with old and new friends. The HBA-NJ has been a home to me for nearly 20 years, providing me with lifelong friendships and special memories. It is an honor to have been invited to this always exceptional event.

The HNBA is committed to working with and supporting incoming President Jacqueline Peña and the new HBA-NJ board. Thank you again for your active support, involvement, and service to the HNBA. I look forward to witnessing an exciting year as the HNBA and HBA-NJ navigate together the triumphs and challenges of our legal profession. With your support, we will continue to strengthen our respective organizations so we can better serve our members and our communities.

Thank you, and hope you enjoy the festivities.

Con un fuerte abrazo,

Daniel Mateo, HNBA National President



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

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
GOVERNOR

November 1, 2023

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the State of New Jersey, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to all those gathered for the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey.

Since its inception, the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (HBA-NJ) has worked tirelessly to promote diversity and inclusion within the legal profession. For more than four decades, HBA-NJ has remained committed to building bridges across generations of Hispanic legal professionals and 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 leaders within our State, we are proud of organizations like HBA-NJ that contribute to the richness of New Jersey's cultural, social, and economic fabric. We commend HBA-NJ as well as the organization's past, present, and future members, for their commitment to the HBA-NJ mission and the organization's endless efforts to ensure a stronger and fairer New Jersey.

I would also like to take this opportunity to join with HBA-NJ to congratulate and applaud incoming HBA-NJ President, Jacqueline Peña. President Peña's steadfast dedication to advance the legal profession and empower our communities, is to be admired and we are all forever fortunate to benefit from her 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 to be your neighbors, family, and friends.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Murphy".

Philip D. Murphy  
Governor

CORY A. BOOKER  
NEW JERSEY



UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

November 1, 2023

Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey  
P.O. Box 25562  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Friends,

It is an honor and a privilege to extend my warmest greeting as you gather for the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey's 44th Annual Installation and Swearing-in Ceremony. I would especially like to congratulate the incoming President, Jacqueline S. Peña, and the inductees for their steadfast devotion to the principle of equal justice under the law.

Since its establishment in 1980, the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (HBA-NJ) has been an incredible resource in Essex County and across the Garden State. From your networking opportunities and mentorship initiatives to your philanthropic efforts and scholarship program, HBA-NJ continues to support, advocate for, and cultivate the science of jurisprudence. I am deeply appreciative to this organization for its dedication to ensuring that everyone, regardless of their socio-economic status or background, gets access to high-quality legal assistance. Thank you for always upholding our nation's highest ideals of equality and justice, and for doing it with compassion, spirit, and love.

Again, congratulations to tonight's inductees. I look forward to seeing how you will carry the torch and light the way for all those that follow in your footsteps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C.A.B.', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator





## NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA  
Deputy Majority Leader  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 4th DISTRICT

NELLIE POU, CHAIR  
Senate Majority Caucus Chair  
SENATOR, 35th DISTRICT

ELIANA PINTOR—MARIN  
Assembly Budget Chair  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 29th DISTRICT

YVONNE LOPEZ  
Deputy Speaker  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 19th DISTRICT

M. TERESA RUIZ  
Senate Majority Leader  
SENATOR, 29th District

ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ  
Deputy Speaker  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 32nd DISTRICT

ANNETTE QUIJANO  
Majority Conference Leader  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 20th DISTRICT

NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ  
SENATOR, 5th DISTRICT

PEDRO MEJIA  
ASSEMBLYMAN, 32nd DISTRICT

ANNETTE CHAPARRO  
Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 33rd DISTRICT

November 1, 2023

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 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Installation and Swearing-in Ceremony of Incoming President, Jacqueline Pena and the 2023-2024 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, Jacqueline Pena, the officers and trustees, as well as the entire Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey for your vision, commitment and advocacy.

Very Truly Yours,

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: NJLATINOCAUCUS@GMAIL.COM





NEW JERSEY SENATE

MAJORITY LEADER  
**M. TERESA RUIZ**  
SENATOR, 29<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT  
166 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE  
NEWARK, NJ 07104  
TEL. 973-484-1000  
FAX. 973-484-1008  
senruiz@njleg.org

COMMITTEES:  
VICE CHAIR, LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT  
BUDGET

Good evening

I want to extend my sincere congratulations to Jacqueline Peña on being sworn in as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. Ms. Peña has already demonstrated her purpose and passions by volunteering her time with the HBA's mentorship program and other non-profits in the state geared towards uplifting Latinas.

The Hispanic Bar Association has consistently worked to promote diversity and inclusivity within the legal profession. Since 1980, this organization has built a strong community of Latino legal professionals, law professors and students who continuously work to break down barriers. I am confident that Jacqueline will continue this mission and help to guide current and future members in their careers.

I am proud of the Hispanic Bar Association's work to promote equity, inclusion and mentorship. Consider me a friend, an advocate and a partner as we advance policies to protect all of New Jersey's children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Teresa Ruiz".

M. Teresa Ruiz  
Senate Majority Leader



NEW JERSEY SENATE

**JOSEPH CRYAN**  
SENATOR, DISTRICT 20  
985 STUYVESANT AVENUE  
UNION, NJ 07083  
TEL: 908-624-0880  
FAX: 908-624-0587

1120 EAST JERSEY ST.  
ELIZABETH, NJ 07201  
TEL: 908-327-9119  
FAX: 908-327-9122

November 1, 2023

To the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey:

I would like to extend my deepest congratulations to the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey on the occasion of its 44th Annual Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony. This event not only marks another year of the Association's unwavering commitment to legal excellence and community service, but also serves as a testament to the enduring impact of the organization within our state.

This ceremony also begins what we know will be a successful and impactful tenure for incoming president Jacqueline Peña and the entire HBA-NJ team. We look forward to witnessing the positive changes and achievements that will undoubtedly result from your collective endeavors. The HBA-NJ stands as a beacon of inspiration within our legal community and this longstanding organization showcases the dedication and passion of its members. Year after year, the Association serves as a platform for acknowledging the hard work, resilience, and achievements of the legal professionals who contribute immensely to our society.

In an era where diversity and inclusivity are paramount, the HBA-NJ has been at the forefront of promoting these values. The HBA-NJ's commitment to fostering an environment where individuals from diverse Hispanic backgrounds can thrive is commendable.

May the camaraderie and mutual respect fostered within the association continue to inspire positive changes within our legal community and beyond. Thank you to the entire Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey for everything that you do. The State of New Jersey is a better place because of you.

Sincerely,

Senator Joseph Cryan  
New Jersey Senate  
20<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

ASSEMBLYWOMAN  
ANNETTE  QUIJANO

1120 East Jersey Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

November 1, 2023

Dear Members of the Incoming Board of the HBA-NJ,

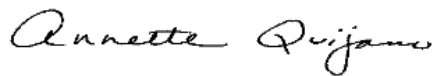
It is with immense pleasure and heartfelt congratulations that I write to congratulate the incoming President Jacqueline Pena and the entire board of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey on the 44th Annual Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony.

Since its foundation, the HBA-NJ has stood as a beacon of progress, tirelessly championing the causes of diversity and inclusion within the fabric of our legal profession in New Jersey. The HBA-NJ not only represents a diverse assembly of attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students but also epitomizes the shared resolve in addressing critical issues impacting Latinos within the legal community. The HBA-NJ's unwavering commitment to enriching the lives of legal professionals and contributing to the standards of integrity essential to our justice system, is both commendable and exemplary.

As you celebrate the 44th Board Installation, it's clear that the HBA-NJ continues to honor its foundational principles through an impressive slate of initiatives, programs, and advocacy efforts in collaboration with various local, state, and national bodies. Your commitment ensures that the HBA-NJ will continue to inspire the next generation of diverse legal professionals. Your continued commitment to providing scholarships, seminars, CLE's, and networking opportunities resonates with the very spirit of the HBA-NJ.

Congratulations once again to each one of you stepping into your esteemed roles. As you embark on this journey, may your passion and dedication to the HBA-NJ's mission guide your steps, ensuring a legacy that will undoubtedly pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive legal future in New Jersey.

Sincerely,



Annette Quijano

Assemblywoman

20<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



**ESSEX COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

HALL OF RECORDS, ROOM 558  
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November 1, 2023

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

Dear Friends,

The Essex County Board of County Commissioners extends its warm greetings and heartfelt congratulations to the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey on the occasion of its 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony.

Over the last four decades, the HBA-NJ has been an instrumental force in the state for advancing diversity and inclusion in the legal profession, and for strengthening the Hispanic legal community. The impact of the Association's scholarships and mentorship programs cannot be understated – thousands of law students and lawyers could not be where they are today without HBA-NJ's support.

The Board of Commissioners is honored to provide a resolution commending the Association's efforts cultivating the art and science of jurisprudence, advancing the standing of the legal profession, and preserving high standards of integrity, honor, and professional courtesy among Hispanic lawyers.

On behalf of the whole Board, thank you for all you do for the New Jersey legal profession and Hispanic community. Congratulations again, and here is to 44 more years.

Sincerely,

Robert Mercado  
District 1 Commissioner

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

**Jacqueline S. Peña, Esq.**

*Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey President*

Jacqueline S. Peña is an Associate with Bowman and Brooke, LLP, a national product liability trial firm. Jacqueline focuses her practice on high exposure product liability matters for a range of clients, including, but not limited to, medical device, pharmaceutical, automobile, and recreational vehicle manufacturers. She is an experienced trial attorney and litigator that has successfully completed several jury trials and bench trials, all resulting in verdicts in favor of her clients. She has extensive experience handling toxic tort matters and multi-district litigation and has also counseled clients in breach of contract matters, business torts, and other complex commercial litigation matters. She currently serves as the New Jersey liaison on the Bowman and Brooke Diversity Committee.

Prior to joining Bowman and Brooke, Jacqueline worked at Cozen O'Connor P.C. and Travelers Insurance, where she specialized in high exposure insurance defense and insurance coverage matters. She represented a wide range of clients in several industries, including manufacturing, construction, insurance, automobile, and commercial properties. Jacqueline 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, she was a member of the Seton Hall Circuit Review and Mock Trial Board. She was President of the Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA) and a founder of MetroLALSA (an organization comprising the thirteen New York and New Jersey metropolitan law schools). She was also a judicial intern for the Honorable Esther Salas, U.S.D.J. in Newark, NJ.

Jacqueline is deeply committed to diversity and community service. She has been an active member of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (“HBA-NJ”) since law school and became a board member in 2013. Jacqueline has served in several leadership positions



including trustee, co-chair of the Young Lawyers Committee, recording secretary, membership secretary, president-elect, and now, President. Jacqueline is most proud of her co-chairship of the American Dream Pipeline Program at Passaic High School, which provides high school

students with exposure to the legal profession and guidance from attorney mentors sharing similar backgrounds and life experiences.

Jacqueline also serves on the board of the Hispanic National Bar Association (“HNBA”), as a Deputy Regional President of Region III–New Jersey. She previously served as the National Chair of the HNBA Young Lawyers Division. Jacqueline is the recipient of the 2019 HNBA’s “Top Lawyers under 40” Award and a 2018 recipient of the “Corazon Del HBA-NJ Award.” She is board member of Amigas, Inc., a New Jersey-based organization dedicated to the empowerment of women and is a proud sister of Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Jacqueline was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey. Jacqueline’s parents, Iris Peña and Moises Peña, immigrated to the United States from Honduras in the 1970’s and met in downtown Jersey City, which was a hub for Honduran immigrants at that time. They were married for 48 years until Mr. Peña’s passing in 2020. Mr. and Mrs. Peña were both factory workers when they first arrived in the United States and later achieved the American dream by buying their own house in the Greenville section of Jersey City. They worked hard to give Jacqueline, and her sister, Janet, the opportunities they never had, and always emphasized the importance of hard work and education. Jacqueline has since striven to honor her parents’ legacy and hard work by becoming valedictorian of St. Mary’s High School in Jersey City, achieving academic success at Boston University, and then, Seton Hall University School of Law. Jacqueline has had the privilege of becoming an attorney because of her family and their lessons in the importance of hard work and perseverance.



# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## ABBY WEBB

*Immediate Past President*

Albertina “Abby” Webb is a partner in the Red Bank, New Jersey office of Hill Wallack LLP, where she is a member of the firm’s family law practice group. Abby concentrates her practice on family law issues, including divorce, custody, support, post-judgment and domestic violence trials, modification of marital agreements, alimony, cohabitation and child support modification applications including litigation involving pre-nuptial agreements. She is the co-chair of the South for the NJSBA JPAC committee and co-chair of the NJSBA Diversity Committee. She has been appointed to the Supreme Court Family Practice Committee, Supreme Court Special Committee on the Duration of Disbarment



for Knowing Misappropriation, the Supreme Court FPC Non-Dissolution/ Domestic Violence Subcommittee and recently, the Judiciary Working Group on Pro Bono Assignments. She was also recently appointed to the Family Law Committee, Bylaws Committee and Diversity Committee for the Monmouth County Bar Association. She is busy indeed. Admitted to practice in New Jersey, New York, District Court of New Jersey, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, Abby earned her J.D. from New York Law School and her B.S. from John Jay College of Criminal Studies.

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## ALEX FAJARDO

*President-Elect*

Alex J. Fajardo is an Associate in Javerbaum Wurgaft Hicks Kahn Wikstrom & Sinins. He concentrates his practice on healthcare malpractice, and litigation with an emphasis on wrongful death, catastrophic injury, negligence, and abuse claims arising in nursing homes, assisted-living facilities, psychiatric facilities, hospitals, boarding, and group homes.



Alex attended Delaware Law School on a full-tuition scholarship and earned the Certificate of Achievement in Tort Law. He also earned the Moe Levine Mock Trial Honor Society Outstanding Trial Advocate Award. While at Delaware Law, he served on the Latin American Law Student Association Executive Board and Mock Trial Honor Society. Alex currently serves the HBA-

NJ as President-Elect and as Co-Chair of the Attorney Mental Wellness Committee and as a member of the Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee (JPAC), the Scholarship Committee and served two terms on the New Jersey Supreme Court’s Committee on Diversity Inclusion and Community Engagement as well as the NJ Judiciary Working Group on Elder Justice.

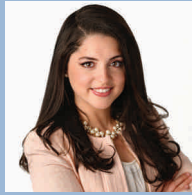
He also served on the boards of Paul Robeson Charter School in Trenton, People and Stories/ Gente y Cuentos, in Princeton, Las America ASPIRA Academy Charter School, (a Spanish-English dual immersion K-8), and as Vice President on the Board of Directors of The Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey, in Camden.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## CRISTAL LAMBERT

*Vice President of North*

Cristal is Senior Corporate Counsel at Bed Bath & Beyond Inc. (BBBY), a Fortune 500 omnichannel retailer selling merchandise in the Home, Baby, Beauty, and Wellness markets. In addition to overseeing litigation, compliance, governance, and transactional matters, she has launched several enterprise-wide initiatives such as a national policy development and management system, global FCPA and anti-bribery compliance program and national litigation and pre-litigation management program. She also co-founded BBBY's Hispanic/Latinx employee resource group and rolled out inaugural community, professional development,



and culture-based programming. Cristal serves as Deputy Regional President of the Hispanic National Bar Association and a Vice President of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. She is also a member of Seton Hall Law's Alumni Council and co-chairs its G.O.L.D.

Committee. Cristal was recently named to the 2023 Lawyers of Color ([lawyersofcolor.org](http://lawyersofcolor.org)) Wonderful Women List and is a recipient of the 2023 Seton Hall Law Exemplary Service Award, 2022 ACC's Top-10-30-Somethings Award, 2021 NJSBA Service to the Bar Award, 2020 HNBA's Top Lawyers under 40 Award and 2018 Corazon del HBA-NJ Award.

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## JOSÉ CALVES

*Vice President of South*

Jose A. Calves is a Labor and Employment Associate at Brown & Connery, L.L.P. in Westmont, New Jersey. Jose defends individuals and management in all employment related matters, including claims of discrimination, harassment, hostile work environment, and retaliation in state and federal courts and administrative agencies. He also represents employers in management labor relations, including collective negotiations, working conditions, employee disciplinary matters, labor grievance arbitrations, tenure charges, mediations, and unfair labor practice charges. Jose assists employers in drafting and implementing policies to prevent employment litigation claims and by investigating claims of potential employment law violations on behalf of employers.



Jose previously served as a law clerk for the Honorable Marie E. Lihotz, (Retired) Presiding Judge in the New Jersey Appellate Division. Jose is admitted to the bar in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Before graduating from The George Washington University Law School

in 2016, Jose received bachelor's degrees in education and history from Rowan University. While in law school, Mr. Calves served on the Editorial Board for the Federal Circuit Bar Journal.

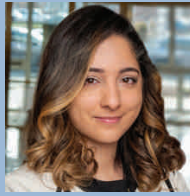
Jose is a member of the Board of Trustees for the New Jersey State Bar Association and the Camden County Bar Association. He also serves as the Co-Chairman of the Recruitment and Membership Committee of the Rowan University Alumni Board. Jose volunteers by serving on his local joint planning board and staying active in his community.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## NATHANIA REYES

*Recording Secretary*

Nathania Reyes practices in Sherman Atlas' Litigation Group. Nathania has extensive experience representing an array of corporate clients, ranging from Fortune 500 companies, national banks, insurance companies, and financial services companies in complex litigation before state and federal courts.



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 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.

Prior to joining Sherman Atlas, Nathania was as associate at Parker Ibrahim & Berg ("PIB Law") where her practice focused on the representation of financial institutions in the mortgage banking industry in litigation, compliance and regulatory matters, including foreclosures and bankruptcy proceedings, in both state and federal proceedings.

Nathania is an active member of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey where she serves as the associations' recording secretary. Nathania also serves as the Region III Young Lawyer Division Representative for the Hispanic National Bar Association.

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.

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## ARIANNA MOURÉ

*Membership Secretary*

Arianna Mouré serves as Counsel with Scarinci Hollenbeck, primarily focusing on labor & employment and litigation matters.



Ms. Mouré regularly counsels employers, both public and private, on various workplace issues related to the hiring, discipline and termination of employees, family and medical leave, wage and hour laws, and anti-discrimination and anti-retaliation laws. She also advises on, and drafts, employment policies and procedures, employee handbooks, employment and separation agreements and restrictive covenants.

courts.

While in law school, Ms. Mouré obtained her certification in healthcare compliance and served as an in-house intern with Bristol-Myers Squibb in their Employment Law and Privacy Law Group. She also worked as an extern in several courts and a legislative office, working with the Honorable Michael A. Shipp, United States District Court for the District of New Jersey; the Honorable Alberto Rivas, Superior Court of New Jersey; and Senator Robert Smith, 17th Legislative District.

In addition, Ms. Mouré is a commercial litigator with years of experience handling matters related to business torts, wrongful discharge and breach of contract violations. She also litigates employment matters representing employers in civil and administrative proceedings, as well as in state and federal

Following her graduation from law school, Arianna clerked for the late Monmouth County Assignment Judge, the Honorable Lisa P. Thornton, New Jersey Superior Court. During her clerkship, she handled civil, criminal and family law matters.

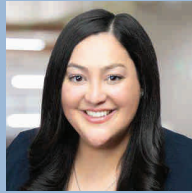
Ms. Mouré is a court-certified mediator with native fluency in Spanish.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## ALBA V. AVILES

*Treasurer*

Alba V. Aviles works with employers on resolving issues in a creative and cost-effective manner. She has defended management in traditional labor and employment litigation, including discrimination, harassment, unfair labor practice charges, restrictive covenants, and retaliation disputes before state and federal courts and administrative agencies. Additionally, Alba is experienced at handling a wide variety of employment matters, including drafting/updating corporate policies, procedures, and handbooks to comply with federal, state, and local law, and handled workplace investigations. She has also conducted workplace trainings in Spanish for more than 100 employees. Alba has first-chaired labor arbitration proceedings.



Alba has a demonstrated commitment to pro-bono matters, having provided more than 100 hours of pro bono work. The Superior Court of New Jersey has regularly appointed Alba as court-appointed attorney for Spanish-speaking alleged incapacitated individuals in guardianship proceeding matters.

Before practicing law, she served as a law clerk to The Honorable Walter Koprowski, Jr., now retired, when he served as the Presiding Judge in the New Jersey Superior Court's Chancery Division - General Equity/Probate Part in Essex County. During law school, she was a legal intern for the Honorable Michael Shipp, U.S.D.J., while he served as a magistrate, and the Honorable Faith Hochberg, U.S.D.J. in the District of New Jersey.

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## JONATHAN BARRERA

*Finance Director*

Jonathan Barrera is a Senior Assistant prosecutor at the Passaic County Prosecutors Office, where he has held that position since May 2015. Currently, he is assigned to the Fatal Investigations Unit. In this unit, Jonathan handles all matters that result in death within the County of Passaic. Prior to holding this position, Jonathan was part of the Trial Unit where he was the Team Leader of Trial Team B. Prior to re-joining the trial unit, Jonathan was assigned to the Narcotics, Gangs, and Violent Crimes Task Force. Jonathan has handled numerous jury trials, which include 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. While at St. John's, he was a recipient of the Phi Eta Sigma Scholarship and was inducted into the college's honor society.

As a board member for the HBA-NJ, 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.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## MARIA MARRERO

*Co-Press Secretary*

Maria Marrero is honored to serve as Press Secretary for the Hispanic Bar Association of NJ after being a Member since law school. She currently serves as Corporate Counsel at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. Prior to this role, she held various positions in public service; most recently, as an attorney at a nonprofit that assisted disabled and elderly populations and before that, as a judicial clerk in the Family and Criminal Divisions of the



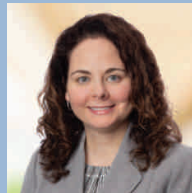
Superior Court of New Jersey. She has also served as a public servant at the Social Security Administration for over 10 years and prior to that, as a lifeguard and EMS volunteer. Born in Cuba and raised in Union City, NJ, Maria is proud to be Hispanic and looks forward to bringing her legal experience and passion for public service to serve the Hispanic Bar Association and the broader community in this new role.

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## JANETT P. SMYTH

*Co-Press Secretary*

Janett P. Smyth is Of Counsel at Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst & Doukas, LLP. Janett focuses her practice on insurance defense, general liability, and complex commercial litigation matters, including partnership disputes. She is also experienced in counseling clients on an assortment of legal issues including risk management, contract drafting, and settlement negotiations. Janett received her J.D. from Boston



University School of Law, where she served as Articles Editor for the American Journal of Law and Medicine, and her B.A. magna cum laude from New York University. She speaks Spanish fluently. Outside of the firm, Janett is the proud mother of three children and one “fur baby,” a Beagle-Pitbull rescue. Janett enjoys participating in community events and recreational activities with her husband and children.



# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## BECKY GUTIÉRREZ

*Co-Historian*

Sylvia-Rebecca (“Becky”) Gutiérrez is Assistant General Counsel at The Stevens Institute of Technology, where she counsels clients on a wide variety of legal issues including employment law, contract drafting and negotiations, civil litigation, compliance, and data privacy. Prior to going in-house, Becky was a litigator in private practice with a diverse commercial and pro bono practice. Becky also clerked for the Honorable Brian R. Martinotti on the United States District



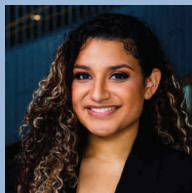
Court for the District of New Jersey and for the Honorable Carmen Messano on the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey. Becky is a Deputy Regional President (Region III) for the Hispanic National Bar Association, and she previously served on the board of trustees of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. Becky received her B.A. in English from Boston College and J.D. and LL.M. from the University of Miami School of Law.

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## SHIRLEY MORENO

*Co-Historian*

Shirley D. Moreno is an Associate at Stevens & Lee, a national law firm that is part of an affiliated group of multidisciplinary professional services firms that collectively provide a full range of legal, investment banking, business, and government consulting services. She is a member of the firm’s Commercial Litigation group. Shirley is a civil litigator with experience in the automotive, food and beverage, and financial industries. She is admitted to practice in the States of New Jersey and New York, as well as the United States District Court, for the District of New Jersey. She is a polyglot, who is fluent in Spanish and Italian.



Shirley earned her Juris Doctor from Rutgers Law School – Newark. While in law school, she

served as a Judicial Extern in federal court for the Honorable Michael A. Shipp, United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey. She also participated as a Clinical Law Student in the Community and Transactional Lawyering Clinic, where she provided legal assistance in guardianship matters and lead the Trusts and Estates practice group. Shirley also served as the Vice President of the Association of Black Law Students (ABLS) and a Representative of the Association of Latin American Law Students (ALALS), two of the most active and recognized organizations at Rutgers Law School. Shirley received her Bachelor of Arts from The College of New Jersey, where she graduated cum laude.

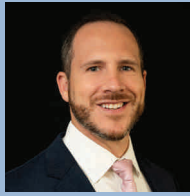
# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## JOSEPH LINARES

*HNBA Liaison*

Joseph L. Linares concentrates his practice on litigation, contract drafting and complex negotiations. Joseph handles a multitude of dispute types including contract claims and drafting, intellectual property, employment, construction and torts as well as 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. Joseph has completed a secondment as corporate counsel at a Fortune 100 financial services firm, focusing on contract drafting and transactional work.

Prior to joining Walsh Pizzi O'Reilly Falanga, Joseph spent three years at a mid-sized regional law firm. 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. 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 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 holds a B.A. from Villanova University and an M.B.A. from Seton Hall University.

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## MICHAEL PLATA

*General Counsel*

Michael J. Plata is the founder of Plata Law Group LLC. His practice is focused on corporate counseling and advice, as well as complex business and commercial litigation in federal and state courts. In addition, he serves as Board Counsel for the Zoning Board of Adjustment for the City of Newark, New Jersey. Michael is a former President of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (“HBA-NJ”) and currently serves as the Treasurer of the New Jersey Hispanic Bar Foundation. He sits on the



Boards of Essex-Newark Legal Services and the Boys to Leaders Foundation, Inc., is a Commissioner with the Bloomfield Civil Rights Commission and serves on the Amicus committee of the New Jersey State Bar Association. Michael began his legal career as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Ariel A. Rodríguez, Judge, Appellate Division, Superior Court of New Jersey. The following year he served as a Law Clerk to the Honorable John E. Wallace, Jr., Associate Justice, Supreme Court of New Jersey.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## JORGE De ARMAS

*Trustee - Region 1*

Jorge R. de Armas, Esq., is an accomplished attorney with twenty years of experience in the fields of public contracting, regulatory compliance, litigation, and public governance. Known for his dedication to upholding ethical standards and his proficiency in navigating complex legal matters, he has consistently proven his value in the legal arena.

He currently serves as Investigative Counsel at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Office of the Inspector General.

Prior to his current position, he was Counsel at Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC, and Waters, McPherson, McNeill, P.C. In these roles he



undertook a multifaceted approach to public agency representation litigation, serving as Town Attorney for the Town of Guttenberg, Labor Counsel for the Hudson County Schools of Technology, and Assistant Corporation Counsel for Union City and West New York. His focus was on providing comprehensive legal guidance to municipalities, counties, public authorities, and school boards, addressing their legal needs.

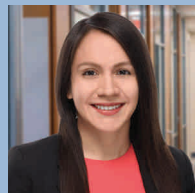
He began his legal career as a Judicial Law Clerk at the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division, serving under the Hon. Dorothea O’C Wefing, P.J.A.D. after graduating from Seton Hall University School of law.

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## DENNISE MEJIA

*Trustee - Region 2*

Dennise Mejia is an Associate Attorney at O’Toole Scrivo, LLC where she focuses her practice on general litigation involving wide range of insurance defense claims and labor and employment. She handles cases involving different spectrums of general liability, mass toxic torts, and employment matters. In these areas, Ms. Mejia is well versed in New Jersey and New York litigation. She also performs departmental disciplinary hearings and investigations on various employment disputes and harassment allegations. She also provides annual harassment training seminars to her clients to ensure compliance with federal and state guidelines. Ms. Mejia serves in the firm’s interview, training, and website design committees. Before joining O’Toole Scrivo, Ms. Mejia served as a Board Trustee to the West New York Board of Education, where



she evaluated and approved the school district’s shared services contracts, annual budget, and negotiated a teacher’s union’s contract involving over 8,000 enrolled students and over 500 faculty members. She was also responsible for participating in the hiring and disciplinarian actions involving school personnel. Ms. Mejia also served as a Board Member in the West New York Planning Board, and as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Martin G. Cronin, J.S.C. (Ret.). As a product of immigrant parents, Ms. Mejia understands the importance of building relationships to create a path for others in the legal profession and becoming a role model for other aspiring students. Ms. Mejia is the Essex County Trustee of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey after serving as Historian and Co-Chair for the YLC.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## CHRISTINE SOTO

*Trustee - Region 3*

Christine Ann Soto is a distinguished education attorney with more than 20 years of experience in both the private and public sectors. An innovative leader in the legal, education and Latinx communities, Ms. Soto is known for her ongoing work to ensure that the voices of New Jersey's students are heard and that their educational rights are protected. Currently, Ms. Soto serves as the General Counsel for Essex County College. As a valued member of the President's Cabinet, Soto provides representation, counseling and management of the College's legal matters. Formerly, Ms. Soto was a Partner and Co-Chair of the Education Law Practice of FPSCTT. Recognized as leader in the private sector, Ms. Soto served as the Executive Legal Affairs Officer to the NJDOE. The foundation



of Ms. Soto's legal career stems from building a full-service boutique education law firm which focused on representing students, particularly those with special needs. Passionate about advocacy and community, Ms. Soto was recognized as New Jersey's Best Lawyer for Families – Education Law. She serves in leadership roles in the HBANJ and NJLEEP. She is also a member of NACUA, the NJSBA and the HNBA. Ms. Soto also presents regularly on the law and education. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Pennsylvania and her Juris Doctor from New York University School of Law. Ms. Soto is barred in New Jersey, New York and Illinois as well as the District Courts of New Jersey and New York.

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## CARMEN DIAZ

*Trustee - Region 4*

Carmen Diaz is a member and chair of the Family Law Department at the firm of Goodgold, West & Bennett, LLC. Carmen devotes her practice exclusively to family law matters including complex matrimonial litigation, business valuations, child custody and domestic violence. She is also a family law mediator and trained in Collaborative Divorce attorney.



Carmen presently sits on the Family Law Executive committee of the New Jersey State Bar association and serves as the Vice President of the Essex County Bar Association. Carmen concentrates a significant portion of her practice to matters involving children with special needs and is frequently appointed by the court as a Guardian Ad Litem and Parent Coordinator.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## JORGE SANCHEZ

*Trustee - Region 5*

Jorge A. Sanchez is a partner in Riker Danzig, LLP's Commercial Litigation Group.

His practice has included a variety of commercial litigation cases, with a particular focus on banking litigation and title insurance claims. He regularly handles title disputes, including claims and litigations involving mortgage fraud, forgery, mortgage priority disputes, boundary line disputes, and quiet title and ejectment claims, lender liability claims, and commercial foreclosures. Jorge received his J.D. from Rutgers School of Law, cum laude, in 2010. He was the Senior Notes Editor and Associate Editor of the Rutgers Law Record and became a member of the Order of the Coif.



Jorge received his undergraduate degree, magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, from Rutgers University in 2005. Jorge serves as a Trustee of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. He is a member of Riker Danzig's Diversity Committee.

Jorge was selected by the New Jersey Law Journal as a "New Leader of the Bar," has been included in the 2022 and 2023 editions of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America for his work in Commercial Litigation, and has been included on the Super Lawyers "Rising Star" list by Thomson Reuters in the area of Business Litigation since 2017.

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## LISETTE GUZMAN

*Trustee - Region 6*

Lisette L. Guzman is an Associate for the Real Estate Group at Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath. Prior to joining Faegre, Lisette was an Assistant Prosecutor with the Union County Prosecutor's Office. 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, where she was a member of the Seton Hall Circuit Review. Lisette was also



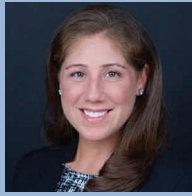
a member of Seton Hall Law School's Interscholastic Moot Court Board. Lisette also worked in the real estate industry as a licensed realtor during law school. After law school, Lisette served as a law clerk to the Honorable Robert J. Brennan, P.J.Ch. in Morris County. After clerking, Lisette was a commercial litigation associate at one of New Jersey's largest law firms. 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.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## MARGO CHALY

*Trustee - Region 7*

Margo Chaly, Esq. serves as Chief of Staff at the NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), where the mission is to support accessibility to and affordability of post-secondary education in the Garden State. HESAA administers \$500M in grants - financial aid that need not be paid back - to students attending colleges and universities in NJ. Before joining HESAA Margo served as Manager of Litigation & Operations at a law firm in New York City specializing in Nursing Home & Long-Term Care Facility Defense and Risk & Crisis Management. Prior to that, Margo worked for more than a decade at multinational insurance companies, most recently on the technology optimization team as the Communications Coordinator and a



liaison between executive stakeholders and developers during system migration initiatives. Margo is a founding member of a not-for-profit organization, AMIGAS, Inc., which supports professional and personal development of women through community service and networking opportunities, and she is a longtime advocate of Jersey City community-based organizations, including WomenRising, Art House Productions, Jersey City PRIDE, the Antiviolence Coalition of Hudson County, and the West Indian Caribbean American Carnival Association. Margo earned her juris doctorate from Seton Hall University School of Law and bachelor's degree in Journalism from Ithaca College, where she was a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholar.

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## OWEN GONZALEZ

*Trustee - Region 8*

Owen Gonzalez is an Associate in Reed Smith's Financial Industry Group. His practice focuses on advising investors and developers in energy related projects and general corporate matters. He represents companies in a variety of industries including renewable assets, private equity



and technology. Owen earned his JD from Rutgers Law School, where he was a member of the Association of Latin American Law Students as well as a staff editor on the Rutgers Journal of Law & Religion.



# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## LINA MARTINEZ

*Trustee - Region 9*

Lina M. Martinez is a Sr. Counsel, MedTech Supply Chain at Johnson & Johnson. In her role, Lina primarily provides strategic counsel and support to the Johnson & Johnson MedTech Supply Chain organization on a broad range of supply chain legal issues and complex transactions.

Prior to joining Johnson & Johnson, Lina was at Atlas Copco, a Sweden based multi-national industrial manufacturer where she provided legal advice and supported complex commercial transactions for business units in North America



and Latin America. She started her in-house career at Suburban Propane, a national propane retailer. Prior to becoming an in-house attorney, Lina was a Banking & Finance Associate at Mayer Brown and Hunton & Williams in New York City.

Lina received her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law where she was a Notes & Articles Editor for the Fordham Environmental Law Review and won an Archibald Murray Public Service Award. Lina received her B.A. from Drew University, magna cum laude.

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## JOSE ROMAN

*Trustee - Region 10*

Jose D. Roman is a Health and Elder Law, Senior Staff Attorney with Central Jersey Legal Services (CJLS), a nonprofit law firm that provides free legal services in civil matters to low-income residents of Mercer, Middlesex and Union County. His work involves estate planning, Medicaid planning, and health insurance/healthcare advocacy.

Before joining CJLS, Mr. Roman was a partner at Powell & Roman, LLC (now Powell, Kugelman & Postell, LLC). He clerked in Middlesex County Superior Court for The Honorable Amy P. Chambers, P.J.S.C. (ret.). He is a graduate of Fordham University School of Law and Rutgers College.

His notable cases include *Curto v. A Country Place Condominium Association, Inc.*, a novel



Fair Housing Act matter involving gender and religious discrimination, in which he served as lead co-counsel with the ACLU-NJ. He is a recipient of the Legal Services of New Jersey Equal Justice Medal in recognition for his commitment to public interest and pro bono work.

Mr. Roman currently serves the New Jersey State Bar Association as Secretary of the Minorities in the Profession Section. He served on the District VIII, Middlesex County, Attorney Ethics Committee from 2017 through 2021. He is a Board Member of the non-profit Community Affairs & Resource Center, which serves at-risk and low-income residents of Monmouth, Ocean and Middlesex Counties. He is a current Member of the HIV Health Services Planning Council of Middlesex, Somerset and Hunterdon County.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## FRANCISCO GUZMAN ANDRADE

*Trustee - Region 11*

Francisco Guzmán-Andrade is an Associate at Stark & Stark, P.C. and a member of the firm's Commercial Litigation and Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights Groups. Francisco represents banks, equipment leasing and finance companies, commercial landlords, institutional investment management firms, and other financial institutions, businesses, and clients in a wide array of matters including loan workouts, commercial foreclosures, breach of contract cases, commercial landlord disputes, condemnation actions, real estate litigation, and appellate practice. Prior to joining Stark & Stark, Francisco served as Law Clerk for the Honorable Allison E. Accurso, J.A.D. in the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division in Trenton, NJ.

Francisco earned a B.A. in History and Latin American Studies from the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey (now Stockton University) and his J.D. cum laude from Rutgers Law School. At Rutgers Law, Francisco was an



Executive Editor of the Rutgers University Law Review and a Henry J. Raimondo Legislative Fellow for the Eagleton Institute of Politics' Graduate Fellowship Program in Politics and Government, where he worked in the New Jersey State Senate Minority Office. Francisco also served as Treasurer of Rutgers Law's Latin American Law Students Alliance and as a student attorney in the Rutgers Law Immigrant Justice Clinic. At graduation, Francisco was awarded the Rutgers Law Pro Bono Publico Award for significant service in public interest for his work through these and other endeavors. As a DREAMer, Francisco serves as a mentor and friend to students and other young people who face the same hurdles he once did.

Francisco resides in Cinnaminson, Burlington County with his wife and two boys. In his free time you can find him spending time with his family, going to the shore, and heading into Philly to enjoy the city or catch a game.

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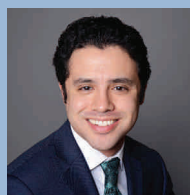
## JONATHAN AMIRA

*Trustee - Region 12*

Jonathan is a Special Deputy Attorney General/Acting Assistant Prosecutor for Gloucester County, New Jersey, currently assigned to the Special Prosecutions Unit, practicing in Recovery Court. Jonathan also serves on the Prosecutor's Office's diversity council and is the internship coordinator for law students.

Jonathan was born in Manhasset, NY, and raised in Princeton Junction, NJ. Jonathan earned a BA in Psychology and Spanish cum laude from Drew University, and a JD from Rutgers Law School in Camden.

Jonathan is a member of the Drew University Alumni Board, Rutgers Law Alumni Association, the Hispanic Bar Association of NJ, and the NJ State Bar Association; serving on the Young Lawyers Division, the Legal Education, and Government, Public Sector, and Public Interest Lawyers Special Committees, and the New



Jersey Lawyer editorial board. Jonathan is also Chair of the Gloucester County Bar Association New Lawyers Division and Diversity & Inclusion Committee.

Jonathan regularly mentors law students and young attorneys, and has served as a guest speaker on numerous professional panels. In 2022, Jonathan became an adjunct instructor at Rutgers Law School, coaching Camden's team for the Hispanic National Bar Association's 27th Annual Uvaldo Herrera National Moot Court Competition. Jonathan also received the NJSBA-YLD's Service to the Community Award, acclaim by South Jersey Magazine ("Best of the Best"), and Front Runner NJ ("30 Under 35 Top Young Latino Leaders of South Jersey: Class of 2022").

Jonathan is admitted to practice in NJ, U.S. District Court of NJ, and Federal Immigration Court.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## MARIA Z. CORTES

*Trustee - Region 13*

Born to Puerto Rican parents, Maria Z. Cortes is a South Jersey native who is a real estate attorney in Holland & Knight's Philadelphia office, where she handles all aspects of commercial real estate transactions, including the acquisition, disposition, leasing, development and financing of commercial real estate. In addition, she advises institutional lenders in a broad range of financing transactions for multifamily and commercial properties. Maria represents owners, developers and investors in the purchase, sale and development of real property from agreement through closing, and counsels clients on zoning



and land use matters. She also serves as the Atlantic and Cape May County Trustee for the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (HBA-NJ). Maria is also Co-Chair of the HBA-NJ's M.E.N.T.E. (Mental Education and Nourishment Through Engagement) Conference and was selected to the 2022 class of Pathfinders for the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity. Maria also has been selected to serve in the 2022-2024 Fellows Program established by the American Bar Association's Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law.



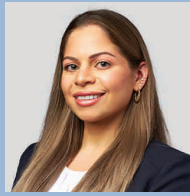
# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## ANGELICA MERCADO

*Trustee-at-Large*

Angelica M. Mercado is an Associate with the law firm of Einhorn, Barbarito, Frost & Botwinick, P.C. and a member of the firm's Family/Matrimonial Law practice. Prior to joining the firm, Angelica served as a law clerk for the Honorable John P. McDonald, J.S.C., and the Honorable John W. Romankow, J.S.C. in the New Jersey Superior Court's Family Part in Somerset County focusing primarily on matrimonial matters. She is a graduate of Seton Hall University School of Law, where she was honored for her "Outstanding Contribution to the Center for Social Justice" and obtained both a Juris Doctor and Master's Degree in Diplomacy and International Relations.

Angelica focuses her practices on all aspects of family law, including matrimonial, non-dissolution and domestic violence matters, and was recently recognized by "Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America" in the area of Family Law. Angelica prides herself on being actively



involved with bar associations, law student organizations, and community groups, and she frequently speaks as a panelist on topics ranging from the subject of family law to mentorship initiatives for first generation and diverse students. A fluent Spanish speaker, Angelica prides herself on giving back to the community by way of participation in pro bono legal clinics, serving as a mentor to Latin-American pre-law and law students, and volunteering.

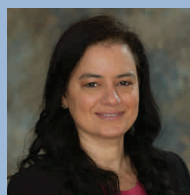
Angelica presently serves as a Trustee-at-Large for the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey and as Co-Chair of the Hispanic National Bar Association Family Section. Angelica also serves as a delegate on the board of the New Jersey State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division, a committee member with the American Bar Association—Litigation Section, Family Committee, and a member of the Young Lawyers Section of the New Jersey State Bar—Family Law Executive Committee.

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## WENDY RUBINSTEIN QUIROGA

*Trustee-at-Large*

Wendy Rubinstein Quiroga is a partner with the Weiner Law group, LLP. Wendy's practice crosses several disciplines, and she routinely provides counsel to public and private clients in the areas of local government law, Mount Laurel affordable housing, environmental law, land use, planning and zoning law, and regulatory compliance matters. Wendy has extensive experience with affordable housing



and inclusionary projects, redevelopments, linear improvement and road projects, real estate acquisitions, environmental permitting, industrial site transfers and cleanup, site remediation, historic preservation, tidelands, and open space acquisitions and management. Wendy currently serves as legal counsel to several municipalities both as general counsel and as Special Counsel for Affordable Housing.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## FRANKLIN PAEZ

*Trustee-at-Large*

Franklin Paez is a litigator focusing his practice on general liability matters for O'Toole Scrivo, LLC.

Since the start of his legal career, Mr. Paez has concentrated his practice in civil litigation. He has represented residential and commercial property owners, corporations, contractors, public entities, and insurers in a broad spectrum of legal subjects, including premises liability, automobile negligence, product liability, toxic tort, construction defect, construction accidents, and insurance coverage matters.

Mr. Paez is no stranger to the courtroom, handling all facets of litigation, including arbitrations, mediations, jury selection, and successfully litigating two bench trials. His broad experience makes him uniquely suited for developing risk management strategies and tailoring defenses to achieve client-specific



desired outcomes.

Before joining the firm, Mr. Paez gained valuable experience working on various matters on both the defendant and plaintiff sides of litigation. Working on both sides of the aisle has given him insight and perspective to relate with opposing counsel through shared experiences.

Mr. Paez's fluency in Spanish has allowed him to connect with clients and the fellow community. He did so with the Community Health Law Project, a non-profit organization representing low-income people with disabilities. He also offered his time with the Volunteer Lawyers for Justice, advocating for those facing collection actions and landlord-tenant proceedings.

Mr. Paez was listed in New Jersey Super Lawyers® Rising Stars (2022, 2023) for General Litigation.

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## ILEANA MONTES

*Trustee-at-Large 5+ Years*

Ileana Montes, Esq. is a staunch advocate for clients, committed to providing highly personalized legal services in immigration, family law, criminal and bankruptcy proceedings. In addition to owning and managing her own law practice, Ms. Montes is the General Counsel for the Colombian Consulate in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and serves as Deputy Director and General Counsel for the Immigration and American Citizenship Organization. After earning a B.S. degree in Psychology, cum laude, from East Stroudsburg University of



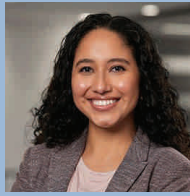
Pennsylvania, Ms. Montes attended Seton Hall University School of Law. Subsequently, she interned with the late Hon. Jack Kirsten, Essex County Superior Court Judge and was a judicial clerk for Hon. Judge Hector Velasquez of Hudson County Superior Court. Ms. Montes had the distinct privilege of serving as the first Hispanic Director of the Division on Women and as Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office for the Department of Community Affairs of New Jersey.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## JENNIFER MONGE

*Trustee-at-Large YLC Co-Chair*

Jennifer Monge is a third year corporate associate at Lowenstein Sandler LLP, a full service national law firm that represents an array of corporate clients across various sectors, including consumer and retail, investment funds, life sciences, technology and venture capital. She works in the Mortgage and Structured Finance and Mergers and Acquisitions practice area, where she primarily represents various servicers and lenders in the mortgage and securitization space. She is also involved in the Firm's Pro Bono program, where she works on asylum and domestic violence matters. She is also a part of the Firm's Diversity Leadership Network, where she serves on the Recruiting Committee and helped develop the



Building Bridges initiative to prepare first-year law students for practice.

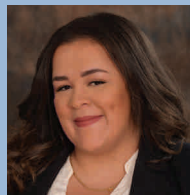
Jennifer is a graduate of Rutgers Law School-Newark and Williams College. In law school, she served on the Rutgers Law Review and interned with the Honorable Jaclyn Medina, J.S.C, as well as the ACLUNJ. In addition, Jennifer was an inaugural Defender Fellow in the Criminal and Youth Justice Clinic and also served as a Vice President of the Association of Latin-American Law Students (ALALS), Secretary for the Muslim Law Student Association, and is a proud Minority Student Program alum. Jennifer is also the Young Lawyers Division Region III Representative for the Hispanic National Bar Association.

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## DIANNA SANTIAGO

*Trustee-at-Large YLC Co-Chair*

Dianna Santiago is an Associate at Weiner Law Group. She primarily focuses her practice on the representation of public sector and municipal clients in various labor and employment litigation matters. Prior to joining Weiner Law Group, Dianna was an Associate at a northern New Jersey law firm where she practiced with



the firm's Public Law group. She earned her law degree at Seton Hall University School of Law. From 2019-2020, Dianna served as Co-President of Latin American Law Students Association. Dianna earned her undergraduate degree at Rutgers University Newark and is also a proud lifelong resident of Jersey City.

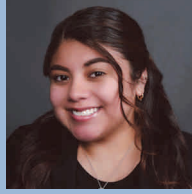


# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

## KATE E. ISIDRO

*Rutgers Camden Law Student Representative*

Kate E. Isidro, from Atlantic City, New Jersey is a first-generation college graduate and now law student at Rutgers Law School–Camden. Kate is currently a 2L with legal interests in criminal law, immigration, and product liability. She appreciates the hard-working efforts of the Hispanic community, including that of undocumented immigrants who want to achieve the American Dream. Before graduating from Rutgers University–Camden, Kate helped organize an endowed scholarship for undocumented and



first-generation students, on behalf of the Immigrant Justice Association. Currently, Kate uses her translating and interpreting skills to continue these efforts with pro-bono tax preparation, will and estate planning, and domestic violence orders. Kate is the Vice President of the Latin American Law Student Alliance (ALIANZA) and a member of the Minority Student Program (MSP) at Rutgers Law hoping to continue advancing the interests of the Hispanic and Latinx community!

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## LUISA NIN REYES

*Rutgers Newark Law School Student Representative*

Luisa Nin Reyes is a second-year law student at Rutgers Law School, Newark. She is the Partnership Liaison on behalf



of the Association of Latin American Law Students. She serves as a staff editor for the Rutgers University Law Review and as Co-Chair for the OUTLaws group at Rutgers.

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## MATTHEW S. ANDRADE

*Seton Hall Law School Student Representative*

Matthew is a 3L at Seton Hall University School of Law from Colonia, NJ. He is a proud member of the Latin American Law Student Association (LALSA), where he is the organization's Hispanic Bar Association-New Jersey Representative. Matthew previously interned for a State Trial Judge in Passaic County and a State Appellate Judge in Middlesex County. He is currently interning for a judge in the District Court of New Jersey. Matthew worked



as a summer law clerk at Hardin Kundla Mckee & Poletto in Springfield, NJ, and at a personal injury firm in Fort Lee, NJ. Before law school, Matthew worked as a Real Estate Agent in Central Jersey. Because of his prior experience in real estate, he plans to practice commercial real estate law in the future. After graduating, Matthew will clerk in the Middlesex County Superior Court, Civil Division.

# 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 (ret.) *U.S. District Judge*

Hon. Evelyn Padin *U.S. District Judge*

Hon. Joseph H. Rodríguez *U.S. District Judge*

Hon. Esther Salas *U.S. District Judge*

Hon. John Michael Vasquez *U.S. District Judge*

Hon. Jose Almonte *U.S. Magistrate Judge*

Hon. Andre M. Espinosa *U.S. Magistrate Judge*

## ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Hon. Esmeralda C. Cabrera *U.S. Immigration Court (ret.)*

Hon. Alberto J. Riefkohl *U.S. Immigration Court*

## STATE

### SUPREME COURT

Hon. Faustino J. Fernández-Viña (ret.)

Hon. Jose L. Fuente (ret.)

Hon. Michael Noriega

Hon. Roberto A. Rivera-Soto (ret.)

### APPELLATE DIVISION

Hon. Carmen H. Álvarez (ret.) Hon. Maritza Berdote-Byrne Hon. Marianne Espinosa (ret.)

Hon. Lisa Pérez-Friscia Hon. Ariel A. Rodriguez (ret.)

### SUPERIOR COURT

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

Hon. Lisa Miralles Walsh Assignment Judge for Union Vicinage

|                                  |                                   |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hon. Yolanda Adrianzen           | <i>Passaic Vicinage</i>           | Hon. Marybel Mercado-Ramirez     | <i>Passaic Vicinage</i>   |
| Hon. Roberto Alcázar (ret.)      | <i>Union Vicinage</i>             | Hon. Dennis V. Nieves            | <i>Middlesex Vicinage</i> |
| Hon. Veronica Allende            | <i>Hudson Vicinage</i>            | Hon. Paul Nieves                 | <i>Union Vicinage</i>     |
| Hon. Arthur J. Batista           | <i>Essex Vicinage</i>             | Hon. Alberto Rivas               | <i>Middlesex Vicinage</i> |
| Hon. Miguel A. De La Carrera     | <i>Passaic Vicinage</i>           | Hon. Candido Rodríguez           | <i>Union Vicinage</i>     |
| Hon. Rosalba L. Comas            | <i>Union Vicinage</i>             | Hon. Mathias E. Rodríguez (ret.) | <i>Middlesex Vicinage</i> |
| Hon. Estela M. De La Cruz (ret.) | <i>Bergen Vicinage</i>            | Hon. Nesle A. Rodríguez          | <i>Essex Vicinage</i>     |
| Hon. John J. Dios (ret.)         | <i>Essex Vicinage</i>             | Hon. Yolanda Rodriguez           | <i>Camden Vicinage</i>    |
| Hon. Francisco Dominguez         | <i>Camden Vicinage</i>            | Hon. Marysol Rosero              | <i>Essex Vicinage</i>     |
| Hon. Paul Escandón               | <i>Monmouth Vicinage</i>          | Hon. Lourdes I. Santiago (ret.)  | <i>Hudson Vicinage</i>    |
| Hon. Kimberly Espinales-Maloney  | <i>Hudson Vicinage</i>            | Hon. Ramona A. Santiago (ret.)   | <i>Essex Vicinage</i>     |
| Hon. Mitzy Galis-Menendez        | <i>Hudson Vicinage</i>            | Hon. Marcia L. Silva             | <i>Middlesex Vicinage</i> |
| Hon. Néstor Guzmán (ret.)        | <i>Passaic Vicinage</i>           | Hon. Hector E. De Soto           | <i>Essex Vicinage</i>     |
| Hon. Álvaro L. Iglesias (ret.)   | <i>Hudson Vicinage</i>            | Hon. Anthony R. Suarez           | <i>Bergen Vicinage</i>    |
| Hon. Michael Jimenez             | <i>Hudson Vicinage</i>            | Hon. Esther Suarez               | <i>Passaic Vicinage</i>   |
| Hon. Pedro J. Jiménez, Jr.       | <i>Middlesex Vicinage</i>         | Hon. Michael A. Toto             | <i>Middlesex Vicinage</i> |
| Hon. Severiano Lisboa III (ret.) | <i>Hudson Vicinage</i>            | Hon. Peter J. Vazquez            | <i>Essex Vicinage</i>     |
| Hon. Sandra Lopez                | <i>Salem Vicinage</i>             | Hon. Hector R. Velázquez (ret.)  | <i>Hudson Vicinage</i>    |
| Hon. Lourdes Lucas               | <i>Monmouth Vicinage</i>          | Hon. Radames Velázquez, Jr.      | <i>Hudson Vicinage</i>    |
| Hon. Jaclyn V. Medina            | <i>Bergen Vicinage</i>            | Hon. Mayra Velez Tarantino       | <i>Essex Vicinage</i>     |
| Hon. Octavia Meléndez (ret.)     | <i>Camden Vicinage</i>            | Hon. Ana C. Viscomi              | <i>Middlesex Vicinage</i> |
| Hon. Julio L. Mendez (ret.)      | <i>Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage</i> |                                  |                           |

### DIVISION OF LABOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Hon. Arcides Cruz Hon. Maria Del Valle-Koch Hon. Rose Mary Granados  
Hon. Nilda Hernanadez Hon. José A. LaBoy Hon. Diane E. Montes-Infante

### ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Hon. Caridad F. Rigo (ret.) Hon. Julio C. Morejon Hon. Susana E. Guerrero

## JUSTICE MICHAEL NORIEGA

Justice Michael Noriega was nominated by Gov. Phil Murphy and was sworn in as an associate justice on July 6, 2023. Born on March 27, 1978, Justice Noriega grew up in Union City. He graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in American studies in 1999 and received his law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law in 2002. At the time of his appointment, Justice Noriega was a partner at Bramnick, Rodriguez, Grabas, Arnold, and Mangan, where he specialized in immigration and criminal law. He also was an adjunct professor at Seton Hall School of Law and served as chair of the

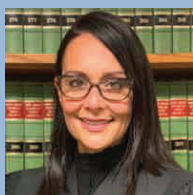


immigration law section of the New Jersey State Bar Association. Before joining Bramnick, Rodriguez, Grabas, Arnold, and Mangan, Justice Noriega operated his own law firm, Noriega & Associates, where he practiced immigration and criminal law. He began his legal career as an assistant public defender in Essex County.

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## THE HONERABLE JACLYN V. MENDINA, J.S.C,

The Honorable Jaclyn V. Medina, J.S.C. sits in the Family Part of the Superior Court of New Jersey's Bergen Vicinage and serves on the New Jersey Supreme Court's Committee on Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement. Before being appointed to the bench, Judge Medina was a managing attorney in the Bergen Criminal Trial Region of the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender where she chaired its statewide Ethics and Professionalism Committee. She also served on the Supreme Court's District Ethics Committee. Judge Medina was recognized by the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) as a Top Attorney under 40 and by the New Jersey Law Journal with the Rising Star Award. Her Honor has served as an adjunct professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University where she taught undergraduate and graduate



students as well as diplomats from various consulates and missions to the United Nations both in New Jersey and abroad. She received her B.S. from the School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University where she graduated as the salutatorian and received her J.D. from Rutgers Law School - Camden. Her Honor is a proud lifetime member of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (HBA-NJ) and was a former Trustee and Vice President of the Northern Region. Judge Medina also chaired and contributed to numerous committees, including HBA-NJ's Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee, SCOTUS Admission Committee, Mentorship Program, and served as the first Editor-in-Chief of the Abogados Newsletter revival.

# THE HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY LIFETIME MEMBERS

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Nicole Albano, Esq.  
Hon. Roberto Alcazar, J.S.C. (ret.)  
Jose Bastarrika, Esq.  
Hon. Supti Bhattacharya, J.S.C.  
Milagros Camacho, Esq.  
Melinda Colon-Cox, Esq.  
Monica de los Rios, Esq.  
Margarita Echevarria, Esq.  
Zulima Farber, Esq.  
Evelyn A. Faria-Waldman, Esq., CAMS  
Tanya Freeman, Esq.  
Daniel Guadalupe, Esq.  
Rey Lambert, Esq.  
Julia Lopez, Esq.  
Daniel Mateo, Esq.  
Hon. Jaclyn Medina, J.S.C.  
Franklin S. Montero, Esq.  
Raj Mukherji, Esq.  
Arlene Quiñones Perez, Esq.  
Nuris Portuondo, Esq.  
Miguel Alexander Pozo, Esq.  
Jessica Ramirez, Esq.  
Hon. Alberto Rivas, J.S.C.  
David Rivera, Esq.  
Hon. Esther Salas, U.S.D.J.  
Hon. Lourdes Santiago, J.S.C. (Ret.)  
Hon. Lisa Miralles Walsh, J.S.C.  
David Wissert, Esq.  
Danielle Alvarez Wolf, Esq.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

ANNA MARÍA TEJADA  
*Mistress Of Ceremonies*

Anna María Tejada is a Labor and Employment Partner at Saul Ewing, LLP. Anna María defends management in labor and employment litigation nationwide and provides counseling and workplace training on related matters affecting their operations. Drawing on more than 20 years of experience, Anna María advises corporations and public entities on disputes ranging from employee discipline and accommodations to leaves of absence, and wage and hour matters. She also has experience with issues arising from disability, harassment and discrimination claims, employee discharge, workforce reductions, whistleblower claims, and restrictive covenants.

Anna María counsels her clients on compliance with both state and federal employment and labor laws and regulations to help them assess how they can limit their liability and exposure to claims. When needed, she also conducts employment-related investigations. When an employer's compliance comes into question, Anna María represents them in administrative proceedings before agencies including the EEOC. She also represents companies facing the U.S. DOL investigations and compliance audits. In litigation, she manages the case from pre-suit discovery, mediation and to the conclusion of the case.

Anna María commenced her career as a judicial clerk to the Honorable John E. Wallace, Jr. when he served in the Appellate Division, Superior Court of New Jersey. She also served as an Equal Justice Fellow for the Education Law Center.

Anna María is a proud graduate of the MSP Program of Rutgers Law School-Newark, the EOF Program at



Rutgers College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, and Passaic High School.

Anna María is the Immediate Past President of the Executive Women of New Jersey, a Past President of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (HBA-NJ) and has held several leadership positions in the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA), including Vice President of Membership, Vice President of Programs, Latina Commissioner, and Region III President. She has also served on the Executive Board of the Northern New Jersey Boy Scouts Council (NNJBSC), and served as the Chair of the Scoutreach Program. Under her leadership in 2013, the HBA-NJ established the American Dream Pipeline Mentorship Program, to mentor students of color and expose them to the legal profession. The program began in Passaic High School and expanded to Union City High School and Atlantic City High School.

She has received several recognitions including the 2023 HBA-NJ Margarita Echevarria Trailblazer Award, 2022 LatinoJustice PRLDEF Latina Trailblazer Award, 2020 HNBA Latina Attorney of the Year Award, 2019 El Diario Distinguished Women Award (“Mujeres Destacadas”), 2016 Northern New Jersey Boy Scouts Council Silver Beaver National Award, 2015 New Jersey Commission on Professionalism Professional Lawyer of the Year Award, and 2015 Rutgers Alianza Champion of Justice (Campeón de la Justicia) Award. She has also been honored by the Dominican Bar Association (2018), the Friends of the Hispanic Research and Information Center (2017), Executive Women of New Jersey Salute to Policy Makers Event (2016) and much more. It is no surprise that she has been named to the following lists for several years, including 2023: NJBIZ Leaders in Law, ROI-NJ Influencer Power List, Women in Business List and People of Color list.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HBA-NJ's 2023 EVENTS

*Event Chairs: Jacqueline Peña and Cristal Lambert*

## 42nd Annual Scholarship Gala & Awards Dinner – April 1, 2023

On April 1, 2023, the HBA-NJ held its 42nd Annual Scholarship Gala & Awards Dinner at the Shadowbrook at Shrewsbury in Shrewsbury, New Jersey. Due to the continued support of our generous sponsors and supporters, the HBA-NJ awarded \$53,000 in scholarships to law school and high school students, and funded \$50,000 to the HBA-NJ Foundation's Scholarship Endowment Fund to continue its goal of endowing permanent scholarships. The HBA-NJ also recognized and honored: Scarinci Hollenbeck LLC, which received our Law Firm of the Year Award; Bederson LLP, which received the Corporate Partner of the Year Award; and Carlos M. Bollar, Esq and Anna María Tejada, Esq. who both received the Margarita Echevarria Trailblazer Award.





# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HBA-NJ's 2023 EVENTS





# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HBA-NJ's 2023 EVENTS

*Event Chairs: Ileana Montes and Arianna Mouré*

## 20th Anniversary Sun, Surf & Seminars – April 30, 2023

The HBA-NJ commemorated its 20th Anniversary of the Annual Sun, Surf & Seminars (SSS) Conference this past May in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The HBA-NJ returned to La Isla Del Encanto for this momentous conference to honor the place where it all began. HBA-NJ President Webb not only saw it fit to celebrate the 20th anniversary by providing world-class CLE seminars and promoting networking in paradise, but also creating awareness of the complex legal issues faced in New Jersey and Puerto Rico regarding domestic violence, human trafficking, employment law, and lobbying and land use issues for those making purchases in Puerto Rico. The attorneys, judges, sponsors and loved ones who attended can attest that the HBA-NJ fostered friendships and created lifelong memories through the educational and cultural experiences offered, which included a tour of the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico and a visit to El Comedor de la Kennedy where HBA-NJ donated food and money to support its mission to help those in need. We explored the splendor of the enchanted island by touring the island by land and sea, as well as enjoying authentic dinners and dancing at some of the best restaurants Puerto Rico has to offer. The 20th Anniversary of the Annual Sun, Surf & Seminars conference was one to remember.







# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HBA-NJ's 2023 EVENTS

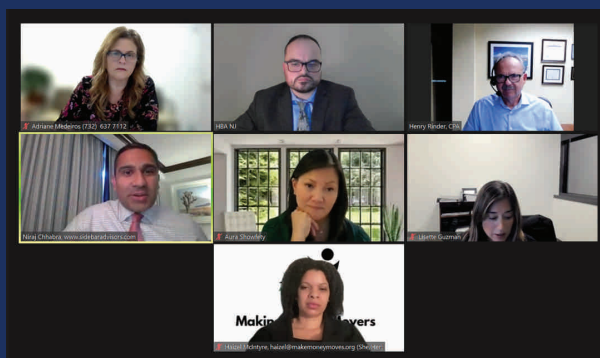
*Event Chairs: Jorge de Armas*

## F.A.C.T.S. – September 26, 2023

The HBA-NJ held its 4th Annual Financial Awareness & Community Training (F.A.C.T.S.) Conference, an educational endeavor aimed at providing valuable financial planning information to its members and the broader Hispanic community. This annual program provides a strong educational focus covering financial literacy, wellness, and security, with a primary emphasis on long-term financial planning applicable to the various life stages of members of the Hispanic and legal community.

The core of the program revolved around “Long Term Financial Planning for Public and Private Attorneys and Employees – Considerations and Concerns.” A distinguished panel of experts engaged in educational discussions and shared a range of practical tools and strategies. These discussions encompassed topics such as augmenting retirement savings and addressing critical needs such as the financial implications of disability and disability and long-term care insurance coverage.

As an educational initiative, the F.A.C.T.S. Conference serves as a platform for legal and financial experts to disseminate their knowledge. Attendees gain valuable insights into a comprehensive understanding of the intricacies of financial planning. The goal is to leave participants better equipped to make informed decisions and plan their financial futures, fostering the HBA-NJ's mission of furthering community education and empowerment.



*Event Chairs: José Calves*

## Hispanic Heritage Month at Rowan University – October 6, 2023

On October 5, 2023, the United Latinos Association of Rowan University and the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (“HBA-NJ”) hosted a panel in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Members of the HBA-NJ shared their experiences as Hispanic attorneys in the legal profession and offered advice and guidance to the students in attendance.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HBA-NJ's 2023 EVENTS

*Event Chairs: Alex Fajardo and Francisco Guzman-Andrade*

## M.E.N.T.E. – October 10, 2023

The HBA-NJ hosted its 3rd Annual Mental Education & Nurturing Through Engagement (M.E.N.T.E.) Panel Round Table Discussion on World Mental Health Day, October 10, 2023, at Stark & Stark's Hamilton Office. The discussion tackled mental health struggles silently affecting the legal profession and our community. Our panelists, members of New Jersey's Lawyers Assistance Program (NJ-LAP) provided expert advice as part of the HBA-NJ's efforts to eradicate stigmas in our profession surrounding mental health.

The panel was moderated by Alex Fajardo and consisted of, Dr. Defne Ekin (NJLAP Counseling Psychologist), Nicole Perskie (NJLAP Administrator), Ramon Ortiz, Esq. (NJLAP Senior Attorney Counselor) and Dr. Ruben Lambert (Clinical and Counseling Psychologist at Wisdom Spring Wellness Services). The discussion was well-attended by both in-person and virtual participants.

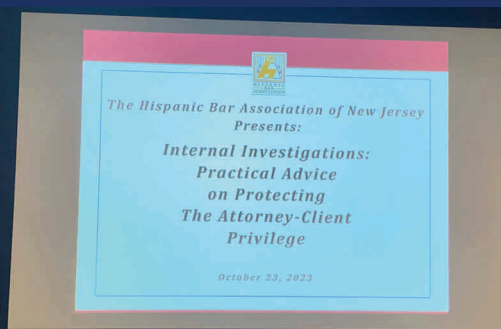
The event helped efforts to eradicate stigmas surrounding mental health in the legal profession by sharing personal stories and providing statistics. It empowered self-care by giving practical techniques for dealing with stress and anxiety. The panel also guided the participants to assistance should they or a colleague need it by informing them of the many resources available to legal professionals and explaining all the services specifically available through the New Jersey Lawyers Assistance Program.



*Event Chairs: Cristal Lambert, Carlos Ortiz, Ricardo Solano*

## Protecting Privilege Panel – October 23, 2023

On October 23, 2023, the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey Business Development Committee held its CLE program, "Internal Investigations: Practical Advice on Protecting Attorney-Client Privilege" at Gibbons, P.C. Speakers Carlos Ortiz (Partner, BakerHostetler), Cristal Lambert (Senior Corporate Counsel Litigation, Bed Bath & Beyond Inc.), Adam Subervi (Investigations Counsel-Americas, Stryker), Lee Cortes (Executive Assistant U.S Attorney) and moderator Ricardo Solano (Co-Chair, White Collar Defense & Investigations Practice, Gibbons P.C.), led an engaging discussion on best practices to protect the attorney-client privilege when conducting and/or responding to investigations.





# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HBA-NJ's YLC 2023 EVENTS

*Event Chairs: Jennifer Monge and Dianna Santiago*

## Kickball, Summer of Service, Rainmaking, Build Your Book

Our Young Lawyers Committee organized a number of successful events throughout the year, including: Building a Book of Business panel at Lowenstein Sandler LLP; Lawyers v. Law Students Kickball game where the lawyers trounced the law students, followed by a Summer Mixer; Rainmaking Guidance panel hosted by Lowenstein Sandler LLP; and the annual Summer of Service event where HBA-NJ members volunteered their time to assist the Community Food Bank of New Jersey.



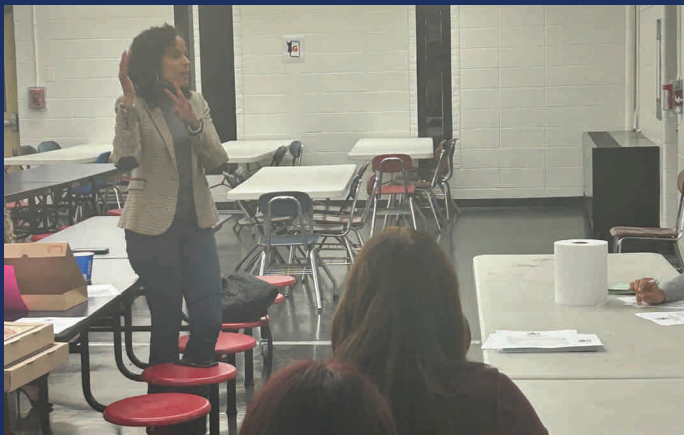


# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HBA-NJ's 2023 EVENTS

*Event Chairs: Jacqueline Pena, Andy Mercado, Anna Maria Tejada, Jonathan Barrera,  
Danielle Karczewski, Jorge Sanchez, Albertina Webb, and Maria Cortes*

## Spring Semester High School Pipeline Programs

The American Dream Pipeline Program began in Passaic High School in 2013 under Anna Maria Tejada's leadership, expanded to Union City High School in 2015 through the efforts of Jonathan Barrera, and, in 2023, the program has recently expanded to Atlantic City High School through the tireless efforts of Albertina "Abby" Webb and Maria Cortes. 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.





# Headline Highlights

## 2022-2023 HBA-NJ Press Releases

**HBA-NJ CONDEMNS THE DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN MILLVILLE MUNICIPAL COURT AGAINST THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY**

December 2022

January 2023

**NEW JERSEY'S COALITION OF AFFINITY BAR ASSOCIATIONS SUPPORTS THE EFFORTS OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION TO DEFEND 13 AT-LARGE SEATS**

**HBA-NJ CONGRATULATES ANDRÉS ACEBO ON HIS GROUNDBREAKING APPOINTMENT**

February 2023

**AS INTERIM PRESIDENT OF NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY**

**HBA-NJ APPLAUDS GOVERNOR MURPHY'S NOMINATION OF MICHAEL NORIEGA TO SERVE AS ASSOCIATE JUSTICE ON THE NEW JERSEY SUPREME COURT.**

May 2023

On July 6, 2023 Justice Michael Noriega was sworn in as the first public defender to ever serve on the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

**MEMBERS OF THE HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION JOIN THE HUNDREDS OF ATTORNEYS, JUDGES AND PROFESSIONALS THAT MOURN THE LOSS OF THE HON. LISA THORNTON, MONMOUTH COUNTY'S ASSIGNMENT JUDGE.** May 2023

**BREAKING NEWS**

**HBA-NJ CONGRATULATES VICTOR AFANADOR, ESQ. AS HE BECOMES PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FEDERAL BAR OF NEW JERSEY**

June 2023

June 2023

**HBA-NJ CONGRATULATES RICARDO SOLANO JR. ON HIS RETURN TO GIBBONS P.C. AS CO-CHAIR OF ITS WHITE COLLAR AND INVESTIGATIONS GROUP**

July 2023

**HBA-NJ DENOUNCES THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT'S DECISION TO STRIKE DOWN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS.**

September 2023

**HBA-NJ CONGRATULATES PAST PRESIDENTS ANNA MARIA TEJADA AND REYNOLD LAMBERT, AS WELL AS MEMBERS ANDRÉS ACEBO, GUILLERMO C. ARTILES AND STEPHANIE BROWN ON BEING NAMED TO THE 2023 ROI INFLUENCERS: PEOPLE OF COLOR LIST**

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## Archer is a Proud Sponsor of the HBA-NJ's 44th Annual Installation



**Congratulations to incoming President Jacqueline Peña and  
the 2023-24 Officers & Trustees!**

Archer is pleased to support the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey's 44th Annual Installation. Congratulations to past president, Albertina Webb, on an incredible year!

Diversity and inclusion have been a cornerstone of Archer since the firm's founding - central to who we are and what we do. We continue to find new ways to learn from each other and create meaningful change that benefits not only our employees, but our clients, and the legal community.

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Riker Danzig is pleased to support the Hispanic Bar Association's 44th Annual Installation and Swearing-in Ceremony. We warmly congratulate all the incoming officers and trustees.

Riker Danzig has dedicated itself to fostering a work environment that promotes diversity, inclusion and the highest standards of personal and professional excellence. These core values have given a common direction to our firm. We are proud of our contributions to equal opportunity in the legal profession.

*Jorge A. Sanchez*

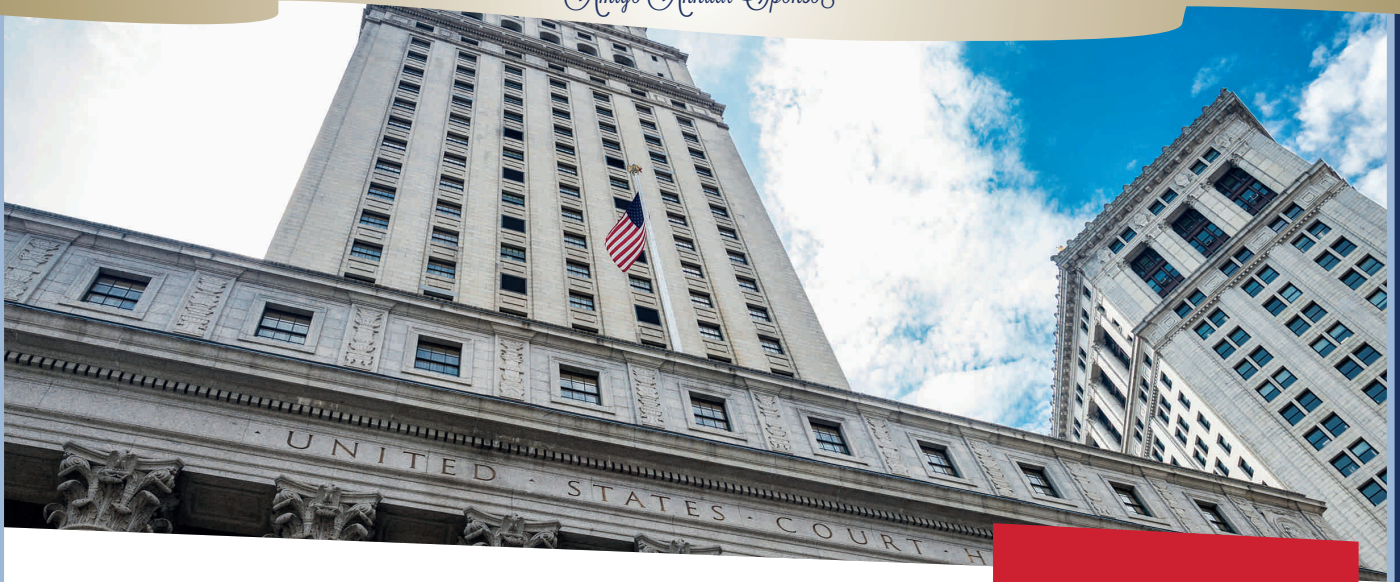
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Reed Smith proudly supports the **HBA-NJ** and congratulates the incoming President, **Jacqueline S. Peña**, and the 2023-2024 officers and trustees. We also congratulate outgoing President **Abby Webb** on a remarkable year.



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Past President, HBA-NJ  
Partner, Princeton  
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# FELICIDADES

Bederson is proud to sponsor the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. We join in congratulating Abby Webb on a successful tenure, and wish incoming president, Jacqueline Pena, and all the newly appointed officer holders and Trustees much luck in their new positions.



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*Congratulations*

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**Jacqueline S. Peña, Esq.**

and the 2023-2024  
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and to Outgoing President  
**Albertina Webb, Esq.**  
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We proudly support **HBA-NJ** and congratulate **Jacqueline Peña** on her installation as incoming president.

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**Congratulations and a warm welcome to incoming President, Jacqueline Peña, Officers, and Trustees**

**We wish you every success!**

**And a special Thank You to outgoing President, Albertina Webb, and her team for their dedication, strong leadership, and commitment to excellence.**



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\*A description of the selection methodology can be found at <https://www.event.law.com/njlawjournal-njlegalawards/methodology>.  
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**Congratulations  
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**Congratulations to incoming President Jacqueline Peña and to the 2023-2024 Officers & Trustees. Thank you to outgoing President Abby Webb for your outstanding leadership!**

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Holland & Knight is proud to support the  
**44th Annual Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey  
Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony.**

We also congratulate our own **Maria Cortes** on being sworn in as an HBA-NJ trustee and **Daniel Mateo** on being recognized as a past HBA-NJ president and current president of the Hispanic National Bar Association.



**Maria Cortes**  
Associate  
Philadelphia, PA



**Daniel Mateo**  
Partner  
Miami, FL | Philadelphia, PA

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**Cozen O'Connor congratulates incoming President Jacqueline Pena and the newly elected members of the board of trustees. We wish them well during this year's bar term.**

**We also extend a heartfelt thank you to our friend and outgoing President Abby Webb. Abby, you and the board have done a terrific job lifting as you climbed.**

**Best wishes for continued success to all.**

**Miguel Alexander Pozo, Member**  
30<sup>th</sup> President, Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey  
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*The New Jersey State Bar Association congratulates*

# Jacqueline S. Peña

on her installation as President  
of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey,  
and extends warm wishes to the entire  
incoming Executive Board.

We also extend our gratitude and congratulations  
to outgoing President Albertina Webb  
for an inspiring and productive year.

*Thank you to everyone at the HBA–NJ for  
their ongoing commitment to diversity, equity  
and inclusion in the legal profession, and  
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Association of New Jersey**  
and to join in congratulating  
**Incoming President  
Jacqueline Peña**  
and the 2023-2024  
Officers and Trustees

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# *Congratulations!*

Einhorn, Barbarito, Frost & Botwinick, PC  
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**The Hispanic Bar Association  
of New Jersey's  
44th Annual Installation and  
Swearing-In Ceremony and  
Welcomes Incoming President  
Jacqueline S. Peña  
and the 2023-2024  
Officers & Trustees  
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## Congratulations

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Wilentz proudly supports the  
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# CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE 2023-2024 OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE  
HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT APALA-NJ



*Congratulations!*

On the 44th Annual

## INSTALLATION & SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

of the Incoming President

**Jacqueline Peña**

and the

**2023-2024 Officers & Trustees**





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[www.gardenstatebar.org](http://www.gardenstatebar.org)

**GSBA** 

Garden State Bar Association  
African American Lawyers for Justice

extends best wishes to the

**HISPANIC BAR  
ASSOCIATION**

as you celebrate your  
44th Installation &  
Swearing-In Ceremony

Stevens & Lee  
proudly supports the  
**Hispanic Bar Association of N.J.**,  
and congratulates President  
**Jacqueline Peña**,  
the 2023-2024  
**Officers and Trustees**  
and our colleague,  
**Shirley D. Moreno**,  
on her appointment to Historian.

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*The New Jersey Legal  
Providers would like to  
wish congratulations to  
Jacqueline S. Peña, and  
the other 2023-2024  
Officers and Trustees*

**CONGRATULATIONS**

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CSG law

CSG Law is pleased to support the **Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey and their 44th Annual Installation and Swearing-In Ceremony.**

Co-gratulations to incoming President, **Jacqueline Peña**, and the **2023-2024 Officers and Trustees.**

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*Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.*

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Withum is proud to support the Hispanic Bar Association and congratulates this year's incoming President, Jacqueline Peña and the 2023-2024 Officers and Trustees.

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HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

**THANKS**  
SANDWICH & FOOD DRIVE  
**GIVING**

Saturday, November 11, 2023, 10am-12pm

Please join us as we volunteer to make sandwiches and collect donations for community shelters throughout New Jersey

We Are Collecting The Following Items:

|                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Coffee             | Soups                |
| Sugar              | Garbage Bags         |
| Cereal             | Paper/Plastic Plates |
| Instant Potatoes   | Hot/Cold Cups        |
| Pasta Sauce        | Napkins/Paper Towels |
| Bottled Water      | Plastic Utensils     |
| Prepackaged Snacks | Canned Goods         |

All sandwich ingredients will be provided.

**Volunteer Location:** Seton Hall Law School,  
Newark, NJ 07102

**Volunteers are encouraged to bring sandwich bags, latex/nitrile gloves, plastic tablecloths and boxes to fill with sandwiches!**



RSVP at [HBANJ.org](http://HBANJ.org) and e-mail any questions  
[HBANJYL@gmail.com](mailto:HBANJYL@gmail.com)

Friends and Family are welcome!  
Please bring hair ties for long hair!

Legal Services of New Jersey presents  
A Melville "De" Miller, Jr. Justice Series Event



**ISSUES IMPACTING  
THE LATINX / HISPANIC  
COMMUNITY IN  
NEW JERSEY**

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

This program will be moderated by LSNJ Board Member Carlos Bollar, Esq. who will lead a panel discussion among legal experts, professionals, and community leaders in the state on issues of importance to the Latinx / Hispanic community.

The Melville "De" Miller, Jr. Justice Series, named in honor of LSNJ's co-founder and former president, is open to the public and intended to raise awareness of important social, legal, and economic justice issues. These free events feature guest lecturers and members of the community who speak on topics of appeal to both lawyers and non-lawyers. Continuing credits are offered for lawyers.

**FEATURED SPEAKERS**

**Moderator, Carlos Bollar, Esq.,** Archer & Greiner; President, Hispanic National Bar Association; LSNJ Board of Trustees

**Teresa Ruiz,** New Jersey State Senator for District 29; Senate Majority leader

**Jose Ortiz, Esq.,** Deputy Director, Essex-Newark Legal Services

**Anna Maria Tejada, Esq.,** Partner, Saul Ewing LLP

**Peter T. Rosario,** President and CEO, La Casa de Don Pedro

This event is proudly sponsored by

**verizon**





**SAVE THE DATE | HBA-NJ SIGNATURE EVENT**



**2024 WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT LEADERSHIP & LAW (W.E.L.L.) CONFERENCE**

**9:00AM - 2:00PM**  
**SATURDAY**  
**MARCH 9, 2024**

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY | STUDENT CENTER  
 126 COLLEGE AVE, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901

HOSTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RUTGERS UNIVERSITY  
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**BENEFITS OF ATTENDING THE W.E.L.L. CONFERENCE:**

- NETWORK WITH TRAILBLAZING LATINA LAWYERS
- HEAR FROM EMPOWERING SPEAKERS
- EARN FREE CLE CREDIT
- INTERACT WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS/VENDORS

**MORE DETAILS COMING SOON**



[WWW.NJHBA.ORG](http://WWW.NJHBA.ORG)



Join the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey  
 for its 21st Annual



*Sun, Surf & Seminars in*  
*Roatan, Honduras*  
 2024




Hispanic Bar  
 Association of  
 New Jersey

*43rd Annual  
 Scholarship Gala  
 & Awards  
 Dinner*

**SUMMER 2024**



44TH ANNUAL  
**INSTALLATION &  
 SWEARING-IN CEREMONY**  
 of the incoming President  
**Jacqueline Peña**  
 and the 2023-2024  
 Officers & Trustees

**The Crystal Plaza**  
 305 W. Northfield Road  
 Livingston NJ, 07039



November 1, 2023 at 6 PM  
 Cocktail/Business Attire

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!**

**DIAMOND**



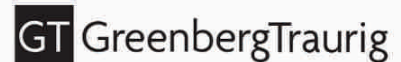
**PLATINUM**



**GOLD**



**SILVER**



Count on Columbia.

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**CONGRATULATIONS**  
TO INCOMING PRESIDENT JACQUELINE PEÑA  
AND ALL OF THE INCOMING EXECUTIVE BOARD AND TRUSTEES

**SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO**

**JAVERBAUM WURGAFT ATTORNEY**  
**HISPANIC BAR PRESIDENT-ELECT**

**Alex J. Fajardo**



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· Vineland · Union · Voorhees · Woodbury · New York City · Atlanta

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS  
AND BUSINESS FOR MAKING THE  
44TH ANNUAL INSTALLATION A SUCCESS:**

**Installation Committee**

Alba Aviles  
Jonathan Barrera  
Jose Calves  
Margo Chaly  
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**Venue, Vendors & Entertainment**

Aguilas de Mexico  
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Crystal Plaza  
Party Flower  
TC Graphics

## 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 profession, 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.

To learn more about becoming a member of the HBA-NJ, visit our website: [www.njhba.org](http://www.njhba.org).