



American Bar Association Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities

Leadership

Chairperson

Cesar Licinio Alvarez (Florida) is chief executive officer of Greenberg Traurig, seventh largest law firm in the United States. During his 13-year tenure as CEO, he directed the firm through its growth from 325 lawyers in eight offices, to more than 1,800 attorneys and government professionals in more than 30 worldwide locations.

Honorary Co-Chairs

Emilio Estefan (Florida) is head of Estefan Enterprises, a global entertainment empire with interests in music production, restaurants and hotels, as well as television and film production. He is best known as a Grammy Award-winning musician and producer, who was the bandleader for the Miami Sound Machine. Estefan has used his prominence to advocate for Hispanic rights.

Mel Martinez (Florida) is Chairman of Florida, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean for JPMorgan Chase & Co. He represented Florida as a U.S. Senator and served as the secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under President George W. Bush. He worked as a private sector attorney for 25 years.

Bill Richardson (New Mexico) is governor of New Mexico, serving a second term after receiving the support of 69 percent of voters, the largest margin of victory for any governor in state history. He served for 15 years in northern New Mexico representing the 3rd Congressional District, served in 1997 as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and was unanimously confirmed as secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy in 1998.

Commission members

Francisco “Frank” Angones (Florida) is partner at Angones, McClure & Garcia. He is past president of The Florida Bar and was the youngest attorney to serve as president of the Cuban-American Bar Association.

Jose I. Astigarraga (Florida) is chairman of Astigarraga Davis, a law firm focused on international arbitration and litigation. He is also a vice president of the London Court of International Arbitration.

Margaret Moran (Texas) is national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), a national organization aimed at advancing the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States.

Janet Murguia (Washington, D.C.) is president and chief executive officer of the National Council of La Raza, the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States.

Angela E. Oh (California) is executive director of the Western Justice Center Foundation. She was appointed to President Bill Clinton's initiative on race, following her prominent mediation role during the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

Eduardo J. Padron (Florida) is president of Miami Dade College, the largest institution of higher education in America with more than 170,000 students.

Cesar Perales (New York) is president and general counsel of LatinoJustice PRLDEF, a national civil rights organization with the goal of changing discriminatory practices via advocacy and litigation.

Alma Morales Riojas (Washington, D.C.) is president and chief executive officer of MANA, the oldest national Latina membership organization in the United States.

Jenny Rivera (New York) is a professor of law at the City University of New York School of Law and the founder and director of the law school's Center on Latino and Latina Rights and Equality.

Anthony Romero (New York) is executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, the nation's premier defender of liberty and individual freedom. He is the first Latino to serve in that capacity.

Thomas Andrew Saenz (California) is president and general counsel of MALDEF, a national civil rights organization formed to protect the rights of Latinos in the United States.

Manuel "Manny" Sanchez (Illinois) is partner at Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP, a civil litigation and public finance firm, as well as one of the largest minority owned firms in the nation.

Diana Sen (New York) is current president of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) and an associate counsel for LatinoJustice PRLDEF.

Charles Z. Smith (Washington) is a retired Washington state Supreme Court justice, who was the first African American to hold such a position.

Advisory Committee members

Norma V. Cantu (Texas) is a professor at the University of Texas School of Law. She was the assistant secretary of education for the U.S. Office for Civil Rights under President Bill Clinton.

Ida L. Castro (Pennsylvania) is vice president of social justice and diversity for The Commonwealth Medical College. She is former chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Leticia Maria Diaz (Florida) is dean and professor of law at Barry University. She is the first Cuban American to serve as dean of an ABA-accredited law school.

Nelson A. Diaz (Pennsylvania) is of counsel at Cozen O'Connor. He is former general counsel of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Manny Flores (Illinois) is the first Hispanic chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission and former city alderman from Chicago.

Horacio E. Gutierrez (Washington) is corporate vice president and deputy general counsel in charge of the Microsoft Corporation's worldwide intellectual property and licensing group.

Roman Hernandez (Oregon) is immediate past-president of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) and an attorney at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt. He is currently chairman of the board of directors of The HNBA Legal Education Fund, the HNBA's only charitable foundation.

Iris Y. Martinez (Illinois) is an Illinois state senator. She is the first Hispanic woman in Illinois to be elected to the state senate and the first to serve as assistant majority leader.

Maribel Medina (California) is general counsel of the San Francisco Unified School District and former president of the Mexican-American Bar Association.

Jesse Ruiz (Illinois) is partner at Drinker Biddle, where he concentrates his practice in mergers and acquisitions and the representation of public and middle market companies.

Allan Tannenbaum (Georgia) is General Counsel and managing partner of Equicorp Partners LLC and former chair of the American Bar Association's Division of Public Education.

Carlina Tapia-Ruano (Illinois) is partner at Tapia-Ruano & Gunn. She is past president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the first Hispanic to hold that position.

Moises V. Vela Jr. (Washington, D.C.) is partner at Holland & Knight LLP. He is former director of administration for Vice President Joseph Biden.

Mauricio Vivero (Washington) is executive director of the Seattle International Foundation, a supporting organization to The Seattle Foundation for the purpose of increasing and enhancing international philanthropy and development efforts from the Pacific Northwest.

Kim McLane Wardlaw (California) is a federal judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She is the first Latina appointed to a United States Court of Appeals.

For more information on the ABA Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities, please contact Kristin Loiacono, ABA Communications and Media Relations Division, at 202/662-1092 or via e-mail at loiaconok@staff.abanet.org.