

PA'LANTE VIII

8th Annual MetroLALSA Conference



UNIDOS VENCEREMOS

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PA'LANTE VIII: *Unidos Venceremos*

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

April 14, 2018

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to join the Metro Latin American Law Student Association in welcoming everyone to its Eighth Annual Pa'Lante Conference.

New York has always been known as a place of opportunity for people of all backgrounds, and our diverse legal community has been instrumental in helping us uphold this reputation by promoting justice and driving our social and economic progress. Since its founding, MetroLALSA has united Latin American law students throughout the New York area and empowered them to excel academically, build successful careers, and foster legal and political change. Today's conference gives participants the opportunity to network and attend panels to discuss solutions to the challenges that are affecting our nation and the Latino community. I am proud to applaud MetroLALSA's members and supporters for the positive impact they are making in the five boroughs and far beyond.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, I offer my best wishes for a productive conference and continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill de Blasio".

Bill de Blasio
Mayor



¡Bienvenidos! The Latin American Law Students Association at the City University of New York School of Law is happy to welcome you to the Eighth Annual MetroLALSA *Pa'Lante Conference (Pa'Lante VIII)*. We are humbled that MetroLALSA selected CUNY School of Law for the second time as the host school for *Pa'Lante VIII*. We hope *Pa'Lante VIII* reflects the tradition of unity and excellence that MetroLALSA has built and fostered over the past eight years.

Thank you to the CUNY Law administration for being so accommodating and so willing to work with us to achieve our vision for this year's conference. We would personally like to thank John-Paul Kocot, CLRN Program Coordinator, who worked with our panels committee to ensure that this conference is CLE accredited. Additionally, we would like to thank Amanda Beltran, Student Activities Manager, and Karyn Manocchia, Events Specialist, for their incredible logistics and administrative support. Lastly, thank you to our Dean Mary Lu Bilek and professors for your unconditional support and participation in today's conference.

To our general membership, volunteers, friends and family, we hope that you will leave here with the inspiration to continue to fight and work to bring our communities together. "*Unidos Venceremos*." Now more than ever, this motto is a significant reminder of our mission as lawyers and future lawyers to identify the needs of the whole Latinx community, work addressing those needs, and participate in the continued mobilization of the Latinx community. We hope today's panels and workshops fill you with new ideas, inspirations and courage to continue the fight towards inclusion and equality in our community. While we each, individually, are capable of being a positive presence in our communities, it is important to remain connected and work together to achieve our vision of a better and unified tomorrow.

We are honored to carry on the MetroLALSA tradition by hosting the Eighth Annual *Pa'Lante Conference* at CUNY School of Law. We sincerely hope you enjoy your day with us and look forward to working together in the fight to build our Latinx community in the near future.

Thank you for joining us on this special day. Unidos Venceremos!

Sincerely,
Blismeli Leon-Depass
Conference Chair
Co-Director, CUNY Latin American Law Students Association
And the entire 2017-2018 Executive Board

PA'LANTE VIII: *Unidos Venceremos*

Saturday, April 14, 2018 at CUNY School of Law

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration and Continental Breakfast 2 nd floor
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Welcome Remarks Auditorium Mary Lu Bilek, <i>Dean of CUNY School of Law</i>
Introduction:	Liderzgo Award Presentation Auditorium Blasmeli Leon-Depass, <i>2L at CUNY School of Law and Pa'lante VIII's Conference Chair</i>
Honoree:	Damaris Hernández, <i>Partner at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP</i>
9:40 AM – 11:10 AM	Morning Concurrent Panels 1 st Floor Rooms
	1A 1-202 <i>Emergency Advance Planning for Parents at Risk of Deportation</i>
	1B 1-204 <i>Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Legal Profession</i>
	1C 1-203 <i>Sexual Harassment in the Workplace: Legal and Policy Guidance on Current Issues</i>
11:10 AM – 11:20 AM	Break (Travel Time)
11:20 AM – 11:50 AM	Keynote Auditorium Rogelio J. Carrasquillo, <i>Member of Cozen O'Connor and Chair of the HNBA's Puerto Rico Task Force</i>
Introduction:	
Keynote Speaker:	Jose Luis Perez, <i>Deputy General Counsel of LatinoJustice PRLDEF</i>
11:50 AM – 12:50 PM	Lunch 2 nd Floor
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Organization Fair 1 st Floor
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	Workshop Auditorium <i>Legal Writing and Persuasion: Best Practices for Success</i>
2:30 PM – 2:45 PM	Break (Travel Time)
2:45 PM – 4:15 PM	Afternoon Concurrent Panels 1 st Floor Rooms
	2A 1-202 <i>Ethics in Plea Bargaining: Collateral Consequences and the Effects on Our Community</i>
	2B 1-204 <i>Blockchain, Initial Coin Offerings, and Digital Currencies: Shifts in the Transfer of Wealth and Regulatory Landscape</i>
	2C 1-203 <i>Achieving Parity in Intellectual Property</i>
4:15 PM – 4:30 PM	Break (Travel Time)
4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	Scholarship Presentation & Closing Remarks Community Room Benjamin Mejia, <i>Law Clerk to Senior District Judge</i> (New York University School of Law '15) & Edda Santiago, <i>Associate at Grant, Herrmann, Schwartz, & Klinger LLP</i> (St. John's University School of Law '14)
Scholarship Presentation:	
Closing Remarks:	Jimmy Rodriguez, <i>3L at St. John's University School of Law and MetroLALS, Inc.'s President</i>
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Reception Community Room
7:30pm – 9:00 PM	After Party Indie Café (43-10 Crescent St., Long Island City, NY)

PA'LANTE VIII: *Unidos Venceremos*

Pipeline Conference Schedule

Saturday April 14, 2018, CUNY School of Law

8:00- 9:00am	Registration and Breakfast	2 nd Floor
9:00- 9:30am	Welcome Remarks/ Award Presentation	Auditorium
9:40-11:10am	Admissions to Law School Panel	1-205
➤ Moderator: Austin Llamas- 1L at. St Johns Law		
➤ Panelists:		
○ George A. Justice, Jr.- Assistant Dean for Admissions at Touro Law Center		
○ Ryan P. Larson- Associate Director of Enrollment Management at Hofstra Law		
○ Degna P. Levister- Assistant Dean of Admissions and Enrollment at CUNY School of Law		
○ Dorothy P. Moran- Associate Director of Admissions at St. John's University School of Law		
11:20-11:50am	Keynote	Auditorium
➤ Keynote Speaker and Honoree: Jose Luis Perez- Deputy General Counsel at Latino Justice PRLDEF		
11:50-12:50pm	Lunch	2 nd Floor
12:00-1:30pm	Organization Fair	1 st Floor
1:10-2:10 pm	Careers in Law	1-205
➤ Moderator: Ana Guillecatanda- 3L at CUNY School of Law		
➤ Panelists:		
○ Andrea Madrid- Immigration Staff Attorney at Catholic Charities		
○ Camilo A. Romero- Founder and Coordinator of ReGeneración Colombia		
○ Christopher A. Carrion- Principal Attorney at Carrion Law Group. P.C.		
○ Sebastián J. Sánchez- Capital Markets Associate at White and Case LLP		
2:15- 3:25pm	Mock Class	1-205
➤ Debra S. Cohen- Professor at Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, Of Counsel at Newman Ferrara, LLP		
➤ Randolph M. McLaughlin- Professor at Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, Of Counsel at Newman Ferrara, LLP		
3:30-4:25pm	Ask a Law student	1-205
➤ Moderator: Rachel Torres- 1L at Brooklyn Law		
➤ Panelists:		
○ Stefano Perez- 3L at New York Law School		
○ Chloe Caban- 2L at CUNY School of Law		
○ Brayan Acevedo- 2L at Columbia Law School		
○ Vanessa Castello- 2L at Fordham University School of Law		
4:30-5:00pm	Closing Remarks	Community Room
5:00-7:00pm	Reception	7 Community Room

MetroLALSA Over the Years

On October 29, 2010, MetroLALSA was created by twelve Latina/o students from nine law schools who met to discuss the possibility of having a conference in the NY/NJ region. At the meeting, the students did not only discuss the conference idea but also their concerns regarding the status of Latinos at their respective schools, among other topics. They shared one major concern: the student body and the faculty at each of their schools lacked a significant presence of Latinos and, more generally, that there was a strong deficiency of diversity in their law school communities. However, the students recognized that given the high concentration of law schools in the NY/NJ area, they had an invaluable opportunity to join forces and come together to make a greater impact on their schools and communities.



Ultimately, a meeting which was designed to discuss the organization of a conference developed into something far greater. It fostered the birth of an organization of like-minded students determined to empower their communities and support each other, an organization which would later be called MetroLALSA. On April 2, 2011, MetroLALSA hosted its inaugural Pa'lante Conference: *Amplifying the Latino Voice in the Law*, with nearly two hundred students and professionals gathered at New York Law School for a full-day of panel discussions and networking. No longer merely a conceptual coalition, MetroLALSA became the premier association for Latina/o law students in the New York City region.

Since 2010, seven schools have hosted the Pa'lante Conference, each with a different theme, but always with a clear objective: to bring the Latino legal community together, increase diversity in the legal profession, and develop Latino/a leaders.

Today, MetroLALSA has been recognized as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, continues to be wholly-operated by law students, and remains a center of support for all its members. MetroLALSA serves as the umbrella organization for the Latino Law Students' Associations from the 13 law schools in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area. Since our inception, we have participated in voter registration drives, Dream Act rallies and immigration reform demonstrations, and we have organized Street Law: Know Your Rights legal presentations in collaboration with local organizations such as LatinoJustice PRLDEF. We have instituted mentorship programs for current and prospective law students, created a scholarship fund for current law students, and continue to contribute to other academic and social justice initiatives.





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We would not be here today without the help and support of others within the legal community, and we encourage all who wish to follow in our footsteps to continue to foster a network of support, encouragement, mentorship and, of course, unity.

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WELCOME REMARKS

Mary Lu Bilek

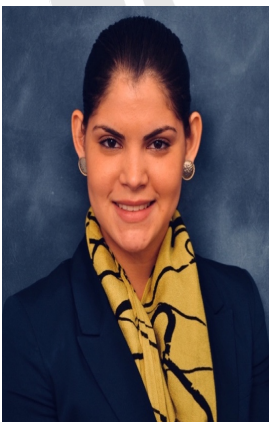


Mary Lu Bilek is the fifth dean of CUNY School of Law and has a deep-rooted history with the law school. Dean Bilek first joined CUNY Law in 1985 as a faculty member and then served as academic dean to three of CUNY Law's deans. She was interim dean during the 2005-06 academic year. During this time, she played a key leadership role in the law school's ABA and AALS accreditations. Dean Bilek's commitment to CUNY Law's values led to her leadership on initiatives promoting more student-centered instruction, developing and implementing CUNY Law's innovative curriculum for practice, and spearheading significant programs—including Pipeline to Justice—and CUNY Law's bar support program.

Dean Bilek earned her bachelor's degree summa cum laude from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana and her J.D. cum laude from Harvard Law School. She practiced law for five years with the firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison before joining CUNY Law. Dean

Bilek serves as an ABA Site Visit Team member. She served on the ABA Special Committee on the Professional Education Continuum, and chaired the Section on Legal Education Diversity Committee. She presents regularly on issues related to the future of legal education, diversity in legal education, the bar examination, access to justice, legal incubators, and law pipeline programs. She was appointed by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to serve on the statewide Access to Justice Commission and to the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation.

Presentation of the *Liderazgo Award* by Blosmeli Leon-Depass

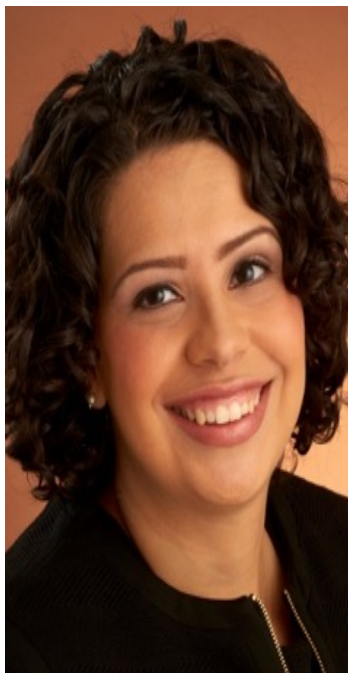


Blosmeli Leon-Depass is a rising third-year law student at CUNY School of Law. She obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and a Master in Public Health degree from the University of Florida. After her Masters, she worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) where she helped guide public health state programs on maternal and child health issues. Last summer, Blosmeli interned at the Legal Aid Society's Health Law Unit. While at Legal Aid, she worked directly with clients on issues related to New York City's public health programs. This summer, Blosmeli will be a Federal Policy Intern at the Center for Reproductive Rights in Washington, D.C. In addition to her legal work, she is an active member of the CUNY Law School community where she serves as the Co-President of CUNY's Latin American Law Students Association and as a Staff Editor of the CUNY Law Review. In the fall, Blosmeli will take on the position of Managing Editor for the CUNY Law Review. Blosmeli

also served as the Conference Chair for the Pa'lante VIII Conference. Upon graduation, Blosmeli wants to continue her work in the health law field as a policy analyst in Washington, D.C.

LIDERAZGO AWARD RECIPIENT

Damaris Hernández



Damaris Hernández is a partner in Cravath's Litigation Department, where her practice focuses on complex civil litigation related to securities, ERISA and antitrust, as well as shareholder demands, internal corporate investigations and government investigations related to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. She has represented a range of clients, including American Express, the Republic of Argentina, Credit Suisse, IBM, Merck, Morgan Stanley, Novartis, Vivendi and YPF.

Ms. Hernández also devotes substantial time to pro bono work, representing sick children and their families in partnership with the Children's Hospital at Montefiore and Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, and acting as lead counsel in a lawsuit in Alabama federal court challenging Jefferson County, Alabama's compliance with a consent decree after findings of discrimination in the hiring of firefighters and police.

She serves as a Fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity and as a mentor for students in New York University School of Law's AnBryce Scholar program. In 2017, she was elected to serve as a member of The American Law Institute and the Litigation Advisory Board for Practical Law. Ms. Hernández also serves as a District Leader in New York County for the New York State Bar Association and as a board member of the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem.

Among other accolades in recent years, Ms. Hernández was named to *Crain's New York Business* 2017 "40 Under 40" list, and has been recognized by publications and organizations including *Benchmark Litigation*, the Council of Urban Professionals, LatinoJustice, the *New York Law Journal* and the Puerto Rican Bar Association.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Ms. Hernández received her A.B. degree *magna cum laude* in Literature from Harvard College in 2003, and a J.D. from New York University School of Law in 2007, where she was an associate editor of the *Review of Law and Social Change* and an AnBryce Scholar.

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MetroLALSA, Inc. congratulates this year's
Keynote Speaker, Jose Luis Perez, Class of '85
and the graduating class of 2018!



1A: EMERGENCY ADVANCE PLANNING FOR PARENTS AT RISK OF DEPORTATION

DESCRIPTION

The presidential executive orders dated January 25, 2017 on immigration enforcement, effectively put over 11 million people living in the U.S., at risk of detention and deportation. As a result, parents, caregivers, and others are left exposed to catastrophic legal consequences if they are suddenly separated from their children or lose control of their assets. The panel will focus on advance planning issues and documents required for undocumented parents and/or caregivers, including the temporary care of children, designation of a guardian, and New York power of attorneys. The panelists will also discuss the challenges that may arise from working with families, choosing guardians, and/or getting “third parties” to accept documents.

MODERATOR

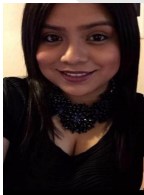


Kristine M. Garcia is a rising third-year dual degree law student at CUNY School of Law, pursuing her Masters of Public Administration in Inspection and Oversight alongside a J.D. degree. She obtained a double Bachelors degree in Legal Studies and Forensic Psychology with a minor in Political Science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Before law school, she had over 10 years of paralegal experience in personal injury, medical malpractice and landlord tenant. She has interned with several organizations focusing on crisis intervention including The Legal Aid Society, NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation, and NYC Department of Probation Juvenile Division. Kristine is most interested in elder law and has worked as a court evaluator on Article 81 matters for the last 7 years. Last summer, she interned at the NY Legal Assistance Group providing legal assistance in elder law matters. This summer she will be a law clerk for a Supreme Court Judge with a focus on elder law and administration. At CUNY Law, Kristine serves as President of PALS (Parents Attending Law School) and is a member of the Latin American Law Student Association. She also played a significant role as the lead coordinator of the Ayuda Legal Huracán María Student Brigade this March. Kristine secured funding for 6 CUNY Law students to visit Puerto Rico and provide legal assistance in severely affected communities. Upon graduation, Kristine wants to continue her work in elder law, and help shape new laws and protections for the elder community.

PANELISTS



Joe Rosenberg is a Professor at CUNY School of Law and a Supervising Attorney in Main Street Legal Services, the law school's clinical program. Joe served as Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Programs from 2012-2016. Joe currently serves on the Board of Directors of Queens Legal Services. The “Planning with Parents Project” focuses on advance planning for parents vulnerable to removal with trainings, know your rights workshops, and legal clinics. The project's website is <http://cuny.is/planningwithparents> and Twitter account [@cunyiswpw](https://twitter.com/cunyiswpw). You can also reach Joe on Twitter [@JoeRosenbergLaw](https://twitter.com/JoeRosenbergLaw) and by email at joe.rosenberg@law.cuny.edu.



Stephanie Deolarte is a third-year J.D. Candidate (2018) at CUNY School of Law and Paralegal Advocate in the Housing Unit at Brooklyn Legal Services. Stephanie earned her B.A. in Criminal Justice from John Jay College (CUNY). She is currently in the fifth cohort of advocates to participate in the Shriver Center's Racial Justice Training Institute.



Mariana Negrón-Quinones is a third-year J.D. candidate (2019) at CUNY School of Law, where she has focused on child welfare and family law. A native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, Mariana holds a BFA from the School of The Art Institute of Chicago, and a MFA in painting from the San Francisco Art Institute. She has diverse professional experience, including, teaching, interpretation and translating, graphic design, and organizing in the arts.

1B: THE VARIED USES OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

DESCRIPTION

The panel will discuss the diverse ways that Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is used in different areas of the law. Panelists will discuss the use of mediation to resolve civil disputes, family disputes, criminal justice and restorative justice issues, the use of civil and commercial arbitration, and the use of arbitration in labor disputes. Panelists will also discuss decisions pending before the Supreme Court that could have an impact on the use of arbitration.

MODERATOR



Julia M. Ponce is a third-year law student at Hofstra Law School. Julia is a Part-137 arbitrator with experience arbitrating attorney-client fee disputes in Nassau County and is also a trained mediator in Facilitative and Transformative Mediation techniques. Julia is a zealous advocate, specializing in Criminal Defense, Immigration Law, and Labor Law.

PANELISTS



Karen P. Fernbach commenced her career with the National Labor Relations Board upon graduation from St. John's Law School in 1977. In 2012, she was appointed Regional Director of the Manhattan Region. In 2017, she retired after almost 40 years of federal public service. She is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at Hofstra Law School, where she teaches labor and employment law. Ms. Fernbach received arbitration training from the American Arbitration Association (AAA) and was selected as a fellow of their Higginbotham Program, whose mission is to promote diversity in the training and selection of arbitrators. She is an active member of the ADR and Labor and Employment Law Sections of the NYS Bar Association and has mediated federal employee work place disputes in the past.



Juan J. González, Esq. graduated from Rutgers University, School of Law-Camden in 1987. Since 1997, he has been working on his own, specializing in Criminal & Family Law matters, in Camden, N.J. His parents are founding members of the San Juan Bautista Parade, Inc., Camden's Puerto Rican Parade. Since 1989, Mr. González has been the Coordinator of the Parada San Juan Bautista. Through the Parade committee, he organized the annual conference of the Puerto Rican Parades and Festivals in the Northeast Region. As an Adjunct Professor, he also teaches law classes at Camden County College. From 2011 to 2017, he hosted the City of Camden's public-interest radio talk show, *"Pa'lante Con Camden/Moving Camden Forward,"* on LaMega, 105.7FM, Philadelphia, PA.



Jeffrey T. Zaino is the Vice President of the AAA's Commercial Division in NY. He oversees administration of the large, complex commercial caseload, user outreach, and panel of commercial neutrals. He joined AAA in 1990 and is dedicated to promoting ADR methods and services. He has written and published extensively regarding election reform and ADR and appeared on CNN, MSNBC, and Bloomberg. His professional affiliations include the NYS Bar Association (Dispute Resolution Section - Executive Committee Member, Blog Committee Chair and Blog Administrator), NYC Bar Association (Arbitration Committee Member and Affiliate Member of the ADR Committee), Board of Advisors of the Scheinman Institute on Conflict Resolution, New York Law School Advisory Committee, among others.



Coleta Walker is the Associate Director of the Red Hook Peacemaking Program at the Red Hook Community Justice Center, where she assists with implementation of the Program and oversees its day-to-day operations. She has been with the Center for Court Innovation for 6 years. She was previously an art therapist for five years at Rikers Island Correctional Facility and provided art therapy to at-risk youth at the Brunswick Psychiatric Hospital, and to women and children victims of abuse. She currently volunteers at the Brookville Center for Children Services working with children ages 3-5 with autism and special needs. Ms. Walker received her B.A. from the University of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and her Master's degree from Long Island University Post.



Peter Miller has been a mediator since 1986 primarily in the family and workplace arenas, and has extensive experience in community mediation cases. He has worked for the U.S. Postal Service's REDRESS Program and other government agencies with workplace mediation programs, including the EEOC and the NYS's Division of Human Rights. He often serves as a trainer and has written extensively about mediation practice and theory. He is currently a Fellow of the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation, a policy board dedicated to the furtherance of transformative practices in mediation and is the Director of the Mediation Externship Clinic at Hofstra Law.

1C: SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE: LEGAL AND POLICY GUIDANCE ON CURRENT ISSUES

DESCRIPTION

In 1980, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") issued guidelines declaring sexual harassment a Title VII violation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Subsequently, in *Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson*, the Supreme Court affirmed the basic premises of the EEOC's Guidelines as well as the Commission's definition of sexual harassment. *Vinson* established standards for analyzing whether conduct was unlawful and when an employer would be liable. Our panelists will provide guidance on the issues arising in sexual harassment cases in light of the developing law after *Vinson*.

MODERATOR



Linda Maria Wayner oversees the Lawyers Council for Civil and Economic Rights and advises the Women in the Profession program through which she works with women attorneys all over Latin America to educate them on sexual harassment and anti-discrimination issues. Ms. Wayner has also practiced pro bono representing Latinas in employment discrimination and sexual harassment cases. She previously practiced international litigation and arbitration at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom, where she represented the organized students of color at the University of Michigan Law School in the U.S. Supreme Court affirmative action case, *Grutter v. Bollinger*. She teaches international arbitration at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University and oversees the Willem Vis Moot International Commercial

Arbitration program. Ms. Wayner is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and obtained a B.A. in Foreign Service and an M.A. in International Politics from Baylor University.

PANELISTS



Professor Tanya K. Hernandez is the Archibald R. Murray Professor of Law at Fordham University School of Law, where she teaches Employment Law, Comparative Employment Discrimination, Critical Race Theory, The Science of Implicit Bias and the Law: New Pathways to Social Justice, and Trusts & Wills. She received her A.B. from Brown University and J.D. from Yale Law School. She has served as a faculty fellow at the Institute for Research on Women at Rutgers University, and as a scholar in residence at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. In 2009, she was elected to the American Law Institute and in 2007, *Hispanic Business Magazine* selected her as one of the 100 Most Influential Hispanics. Professor Hernandez serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Legal Education*, and the *Latino Studies*

Journal. Her scholarly interest is in the study of comparative race relations and anti-discrimination law, and her work has been published in the *California Law Review*, *Cornell Law Review*, *Harvard Civil Rights Civil Liberties Law Review*, and *Yale Law Journal* amongst other publications.



Alberto Rodriguez is counsel in the Labor & Employment Department at Seyfarth Shaw, LLP. Mr. Rodriguez has represented employers in matters arising under Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act and the NYS and NYC Human Rights laws. He has also appeared in matters before the NYC Commission on Human Rights, the EEOC and the National Labor Relations Board. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Rodriguez was an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Labor & Employment Division of the NYC Law Department where he represented various NYC agencies and management level employees in employment litigation. In 2010, he was appointed as an adjunct professor for Columbia Law School's legal writing program where he teaches

first year law students. He is also the instructor for the CLS Latino/a Law Students Association Moot Court Program. In 2012, Mr. Rodriguez was invited to join the Legal Aid Society's New Leadership Program as a founding board member and proudly served as a co-chair of the program. Mr. Rodriguez received his B.A. from Stanford University and his J.D. from Columbia Law School.



Stephanie R. Correa is a Partner at The Cochran Firm. She is a litigator specializing in employment discrimination and civil rights matters. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Correa was a judicial intern at the EEOC where she worked with Administrative Law Judges conducting research on issues relating to employment discrimination and retaliation. She also worked as a summer associate at Tuckner, Sipser, Weinstock & Sipser, a law firm specializing in women's workplace rights. She is involved in iMentor, a school-based mentoring program for NYC public high school students. She is also currently President-Elect of the Puerto Rican Bar Association and a member of the NYC Bar Association. Ms. Correa is a graduate of St. John's University (B.A., summa cum laude) and St. John's University School of Law.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jose Luis Perez



Jose Luis Perez has served as LatinoJustice PRLDEF's Legal Director for the past decade and is now in his 33rd year as a public interest lawyer. LatinoJustice is recognized nationally for its ground-breaking law reform litigation that has profoundly improved the way Latinos are treated in our society. Perez has been the lead lawyer in a number of ground-breaking immigrants' rights cases which have *inter alia*: 1) upheld housing protections for non-citizen tenants in NYC; 2) barred attempts to require private landlords in New Jersey to verify the immigration status of prospective tenants; 3) limited local police enforcement of civil immigration warrants; and 4) most recently, securing a precedential court decision finding that a documented law graduate can fulfill state character & fitness bar admission licensing requirements, and that the State judiciary can approve bar admission of such applicants even absent any pre-condition state legislative

action expressly authorizing such law licenses. He also works very closely with LatinoJustice's Communications & Community Engagement and Education Divisions on the organization's many innovative pipeline pre-law and leadership programs. He has mentored countless high school, college and law students and new lawyers of color over the years.

Perez is a 1985 graduate of St. John's University School of Law. He began his legal career as a prosecutor with the Queens County District Attorney's Office and the NYC Housing Authority's Anti-Narcotics Strike Force. He also worked at the NYC Legal Aid Society for over ten years, starting as a staff attorney in the Juvenile Rights Division representing children & juveniles in Family Court proceedings, and later serving as a supervising attorney in LAS' Civil Division Brooklyn and Harlem Neighborhood Offices overseeing the housing and family law practices. He also spent a year at Hofstra Law School supervising student attorneys in the Housing Rights and Disabilities Law Clinics while teaching lawyering and litigation skills. Prior to joining LatinoJustice, Jose served as an Assistant Attorney General, Deputy Chief, and Acting Chief of the NYS Attorney General's Consumer Frauds & Protection Bureau.

Introduction by Rogelio J. Carrasquillo



Rogelio J. Carrasquillo, a member of Cozen O'Connor's EB-5 and Corporate practices, represents public and private clients using EB-5 as a source of capital, filing for an EB-5 Regional Center designation from USCIS, as well as developers seeking to raise capital using the EB-5 investor visa program. He is experienced with public-private partnership projects using EB-5 funds and other economic and tax incentives, as well as the combination of EB-5 financing with other programs, such as U.S. federal tax credits. Roy advises domestic and foreign companies, multinationals, and entrepreneurs on their business activities and investment considerations in the U.S. and throughout Latin America, Asia and Europe, including in cross-border transactions. He also advises clients on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, corporate finance, real estate transactions and infrastructure development, with an emphasis on Puerto Rico and the Latin American region.



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2A: ETHICS IN PLEA BARGAINING: COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES AND THE EFFECTS ON OUR COMMUNITY

DESCRIPTION

This panel will delve into the effects plea bargaining has on citizens of New York. The panelists have experience in the practice of Criminal Law and have had exposure to the collateral consequences suffered by those who accept plea bargains, including but not limited to, immigration, housing, employment, as well as a myriad of family law issues. The panel's objective is to leave participants with an enlightened sense of how intertwined issues are and illustrate different approaches to address the effects plea bargaining has on our communities.

MODERATOR



Nicholas Oliva is currently a third year law student at St. John's University School of Law, where he is the Managing Editor of the Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development, Senior Staff Member of the Moot Court Honor Society, President of the Latin American Law Students Association, and a member of the Dean's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion. He currently works with the school's Prosecution Clinic at the Queens County DA's Office, where he has worked since September 2017. After graduation, he will be working for the Nassau County DA's Office.

PANELISTS



Leah Winfield graduated high school a year early, obtained an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from Nassau Community College and a B.A. in Journalism at Stony Brook University. She received her J.D. from St. John's University School of Law, where she was an International Law Student Fellow for the Center for International and Comparative Law (CICL) where she focused part of her studies on International Criminal Law and National Security Law. She interned at the Kings County and Suffolk County DA's Office, the U.S. Marshal Service, and the E.D.N.Y.'s U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division. She also participated as a trial advocate for the Polestino Trial Advocate Institute and co-founded the "Coalition for Social Justice." Presently, she is a Prosecutor within the District Court Trial Bureau at the Nassau County DA's Office.



Wendell Cruz, Esq. is a Litigation Supervisor at the Center for Family Representation (CFR). Wendell is assisting in developing CFR's Criminal Defense Practice. Prior to CFR, he spent ten years as a staff attorney at NY County Defender Services (NYCDS), where he handled all levels of misdemeanor and felony cases, including multiple jury trials. He represented several high profile clients, such as Alex Hausner, accused stalker of CNN journalist, Anderson Cooper. He was also named the "Juvenile Defense Specialist" attorney to represent juvenile offender clients charged as adults. Prior to NYCDS, he was a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society's Bronx office and later served as Assistant Attorney in Charge for the Juvenile Rights Division in their Queens office. Wendell received his B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from St. John's University and graduated from Seton Hall University School of Law.



Ernesto Papaleo holds a B.A. and M.A. in Sociology from St. John's University. After graduating from St. John's University School of Law, he went on to become a staff attorney at NYCDS. Prior to NYCDS, he worked for the Hon. Joseph A. Zayas, Administrative Judge of Queens Supreme Court (Criminal Term) and judge of the Queens Youth Part. While in law school, Ernesto developed his public defender skills with Brooklyn Defender Services. He also gained experience in juvenile immigration defense and removal relief involving criminal crossover issues with Catholic Charities of New York. As an original organizer of MetroLALSA, he helped form the organization's identity, mission, and bylaws. As both an active student and alumnus, he has helped organize many of MetroLALSA's different social action and community based initiatives.



Christopher A. Carrion, obtained his B.A. at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and his J.D. from New York Law School. He is the principal attorney and founder at Carrion Law Group, P.C. ("CLG") and focuses his practice on criminal defense, family law and general litigation. Prior to founding CLG, he was a Pro-Bono Assistant District Attorney at the Kings County DA's Office. He has appeared before state and federal courts across NYC and upstate NY, has handled complex litigation matters, and has advised and counseled clients on issues including misdemeanor and felony charges, grand jury proceedings, labor and employment cases, and family law matters. He is a board member of MetroLALSA, Inc., sits on the HNB's Young Lawyers Division Committee for the NY Region and also on the Criminal Law and Criminal Courts Committees for the NYC Bar Association, the Professional Ethics Committee, Law Related Education Committee and the Civil Rights and Liberties Committee of the NY County Lawyers Association in addition to being a member of a variety of bar associations.



Pa'lante Scholarship

MetroLALSA depends on the time and dedication of student volunteers who simultaneously maintain their academic accomplishments, internships, clerkships, scholastic pursuits such as journals, mock trials and moot courts, as well as jobs, community activism and membership in professional associations that support their legal interests. As a result, each year MetroLALSA awards scholarships to deserving law students who demonstrate community service involvement, commitment to the Latino community, academic achievement and financial need. The scholarship is presented to the selected recipient at MetroLALSA's annual Pa'lante Conference. A Scholarship Committee was formed consisting of MetroLALSA alumni familiar with the stretched-too-thin lifestyles of current members. The Scholarship Committee created an application open to all student members, regardless of racial or ethnic background, of the Latino/a Law Student Associations with MetroLALSA Delegates. In selecting a recipient, the Scholarship Committee considered each applicant's personal statement; community involvement; commitment to the Latino community; resume; and an optional Letter of Recommendation. Not surprisingly, the applicants were impressive and the Scholarship Committee looks forward to increasing the number of scholarships in the future.

We are proud to unveil the Pa'lante VIII: *Unidos Venceremos* Scholarship Recipient!



2B: BLOCKCHAIN, INITIAL COIN OFFERINGS, AND DIGITAL CURRENCIES: SHIFTS IN THE TRANSFER OF WEALTH AND REGULATORY LANDSCAPE

DESCRIPTION

Digital currencies are breaking into the mainstream – from countries launching their own coins to Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs) raising millions in seconds, the surge in interest is as significant as when Bitcoin hit its all-time high of just over \$20,000 last December. In this panel, attorneys will learn about the technology underlying crypto-assets, how these assets are facilitating shifts in the transfer of wealth, and how regulatory bodies are approaching digital currencies and ICOs. Additionally, attorneys will learn how keep their knowledge up-to-date in this fast-moving space to provide the best possible counsel to their clients.

COORDINATOR



Jimmy Rodriguez is the President of MetroLALSA, Inc. and a 3L at St. John's University School of Law. He is an HNBA/Microsoft Intellectual Property Law Institute Scholar and placed first at the 2017 NYLS IP Negotiation Competition. Jimmy has written two research papers recently: *The SEC's Role in Regulating Initial Coin Offerings* and *The True Costs of Bad Bot: An Examination of YouTube's Content ID* - both of which are available on his LinkedIn page.

Special thanks to Peter Garcia, MetroLALSA Alumnus.

MODERATOR



Andrea Rodriguez is a third year law student at Fordham University School of Law. She obtained her B.A. in Legal Studies and Psychology from St. John's University. After graduation, she worked as a paralegal for four years. At Fordham, Andrea is a staff member of the Urban Law Journal, an Associate Editor of Moot Court, and was a student in the school's Immigrant Rights Clinic. Outside of Fordham, she serves as MetroLALSA, Inc.'s VP of Public Relations and as the Director of Membership of the National Latina/o Law Student Association (NLLSA). During her 1L summer, she was the inaugural participant of the Latino Judges Association's Summer Internship Program and the recipient of the Pa'lante Scholarship at MetroLALSA's Pa'lante VI Conference. After graduation, she will be joining White & Case LLP and will be

working in the firm's corporate practice group.

PANELISTS



Darren J. Sandler is a corporate attorney in the NY office of Kirkland and Ellis LLP. His practice focuses on the formation, organization, operation and securities regulatory compliance of domestic and offshore hedge funds, private equity funds, funds-of-funds, real estate funds and other investment vehicles. In addition, he represents investment advisers in connection with registration under, and compliance with, the U.S. Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended. Darren also advises clients on the regulatory compliance considerations related to blockchain cryptocurrency and other digital tokens and has represented token issuers in connection with their virtual currency and blockchain protocol launches and related strategic matters.



Christopher W. Pendleton is an Associate in Morrison Cohen's Business Litigation and Compensation, Benefits & Employment Departments. He is a member of the firm's cryptocurrency litigation team, which is on the cutting edge of cryptocurrency issues, including the active representation of an ICO issuer in the first federal litigation brought by the SEC's new "Cyber Unit." The team frequently advises on thorny and novel legal issues, and provides thought leadership in legal media and blockchain-centered outlets. The firm's "Cryptocurrency Litigation Tracker" keeps the industry abreast of all new regulatory developments in the area, and ensures the team has its finger on the pulse of the regulators. Christopher has represented and advised

clients ranging from large corporations and financial lending institutions to small businesses and individuals in matters involving complex commercial disputes, fraud, claims of discrimination, constructive discharge, wage and hour violations and other business torts. He has also advised clients in connection with government and internal investigations and arbitrations.



Sarah H. Brennan is a senior associate attorney in the Corporate and Securities practice group at Lippe Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP in Buffalo. Ms. Brennan focuses her practice on corporate and securities law, representing public and private companies, venture capital and private equity firms and investors, as well as clients in every stage of the corporate life cycle on venture capital financings, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance and compliance, SEC reporting and other general corporate and securities matters. In addition, she serves as Team Leader of the firm's Blockchain Technology, Cryptocurrency and Digital Assets practice and has a strong interest in the intersection of blockchain technology and how it meets and challenges existing regulations.

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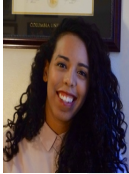
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2C: ACHIEVING PARITY IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

DESCRIPTION

Join us for a panel discussion on diversity and inclusion in innovation. Among other things, the panelists will speak about their experiences as intellectual property practitioners, the importance of mentoring and networking, initiatives directed to achieving parity in innovation, and how lawyers and clients can work together to promote diversity and inclusion in innovation.

MODERATOR



Maricela González is a third-year law student at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. Maricela is expected to graduate this May with an Intellectual Property and Information Law concentration, having served as a student attorney in the Indie Film Clinic and Senior Articles Editor of the Cardozo Arts & Entertainment Law Journal. Maricela is also co-chair of the Cardozo Latin American Law Student Association and drafted Cardozo's contribution to the successful bid to host the 2018 National Latina/o Law Student Association Conference in New York this October. Outside of Cardozo, Maricela contributes to the New York City Bar Association Entertainment Law Committee as a student member and the nascent millennial pop culture podcast, Pesky Whipper-Snappers.

PANELISTS



Professor Jeanne C. Curtis serves as the director of the Cardozo/Google Patent Diversity Project and as a visiting assistant clinical professor. The patent diversity project is a new program at Cardozo, funded through a \$200,000 grant from Google. It was created with the goal of increasing the number of U.S. patents issued with women and underrepresented minorities as names inventors. Professor Curtis has spent more than 20 years in private practice specializing in intellectual property law with a particular emphasis on patent and trade secret law. She was a partner at Fish & Neave LLP and then at Ropes & Gray LLP. She counseled clients on the creation, protection and enforcement of their intellectual property. She successfully tried and won cases in federal courts and tribunals around the country.



Carl A. Morales, Ph.D. is a registered patent attorney in the Patent Counseling and Prosecution practice of Dechert's Intellectual Property group. Dr. Morales applies his scientific and legal training toward acquiring, protecting, and managing the patent rights of a variety of clients in the biotechnology, chemistry, pharmaceutical and medical device industries. Dr. Morales holds a Ph.D. in synthetic organic chemistry from Harvard University and a J.D. from New York University.



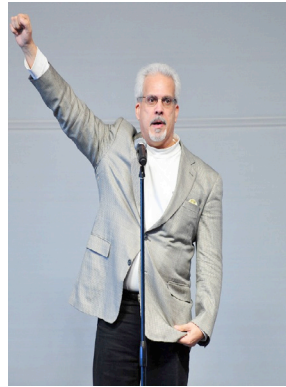
Khue V. Hoang is a partner at Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP practicing in the firm's Intellectual Property and Technology Practice group. She has nearly two decades of experience representing clients in patent infringement, patent prosecution and licensing proceedings. A former process and product engineer for Rockwell Semiconductor Systems, Khue brings an understanding of industrial and corporate knowledge that leads to effective and efficient legal solutions for high-stakes litigation and patent enforcement work. EMC, LGE, Motorola, BioTelemetry and other well-known companies in diverse technology areas have relied upon Khue to conduct complex litigation and implement effective licensing strategies in numerous marketplaces.



Clara Jiménez works closely with clients of all sizes, including Fortune 100 companies and startups in the chemical and medical device industries to develop intellectual property solutions tailored to their business needs. She counsels clients on patent portfolio management and trade secret protection policies.

CONGRATS JOSE!

It gives us great pleasure at LatinoJustice PRLDEF to acknowledge uno de los nuestros, your keynote speaker, José Pérez, Deputy General Counsel at LatinoJustice PRLDEF. José has been a longtime committed supporter of Metro-LALSA.



From your family at LatinoJustice PRLDEF.



THE HISPANIC NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION – Region II (NY)

We proudly serve the Latino community in the New York City area. We are a nonprofit, nonpartisan, national membership organization that represents the interests of Hispanic legal professionals in the United States and its territories. We are also committed to advocacy on issues of importance to the 54+ million people of Hispanic heritage living in the U.S.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **May 16 – Privacy Law and How it Affects the Latino Community, at Baker Hostetler, NYC**
- **May 31 - Reception in Honor of Roger Juan Maldonado, First Latino President of the NYC Bar Association, at JAMS, NYC.**

WORKSHOP – LEGAL WRITING AND PERSUASION: BEST PRACTICES FOR SUCCESS

DESCRIPTION

This workshop will provide different perspectives on what legal professionals can do to ensure their work product is persuasive and effective. Whether a legal brief, client letter, or research memorandum, the key to an effective argument requires sound legal analysis and persuasiveness. The way you convey the facts and incorporate the law to support your argument can shift the scales towards or against your side. Providing effective legal analysis is important, but it is equally important that such analysis is *persuasive*. The panelists will share proven strategies and techniques on how to draft persuasive writing and arguments.

MODERATOR



Stephanie C. Robayo is a Law Clerk with the Counsel's Office at the NYS Department of Labor, awaiting bar exam results. She earned her J.D. in 2017 from Brooklyn Law School, and was recognized at graduation for her dedication to public service practice in underserved communities. In 2016, she organized the first New York presentation of Professor Dolores S. Atencio's exhibit, *"Luminarias de la Ley: An Exhibit of the First Latina Lawyers 1900-1980."* During her second year of law school, she was selected out of 35 law students nationwide for the 2016 Ms. JD Public Interest Scholarship. She was also honored by the Puerto Rican Bar Association with the Flor de Maga Diamond Jubilee award recognizing leading women in the law. She currently serves as a mentor for the American Dream Pipeline Program of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. She was previously Law Student Division Region II President of the HNBA and an Executive Board member of MetroLALSA, Inc.

PANELISTS



Evelyn M. Pérez-Albino is an Associate in the Labor & Employment group at Sabin Bermant & Gould, LLP. Her practice focuses on providing the firm's media clients with advice and counsel on a wide array of labor & employment issues. She also represents the firm's clients in employment litigation matters at the administrative level. She has been an active member of the HNBA since her law school days, serving as the former Chair of Region II's Young Lawyers Division and most recently, as a Regional Deputy President. Evelyn was also recently competitively selected as a 2018 Fellow of the Council of Urban Professionals (CUP) Fellowship Program. Prior to joining SBG, she was a former litigator in the Labor & Employment practice of Kelley Drye & Warren LLP. Evelyn received her J.D. from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where she served as Co-Chair of the Latin American Law Student Association and in that role also became a proud founding member of MetroLALSA.



Judge Walter Rivera was nominated by Governor Andrew Cuomo to the New York State Court of Claims on June 14, 2017 and was confirmed by the NYS Senate on June 19, 2017. Prior to his appointment, Judge Rivera was twice elected as a Town Justice at the Greenburgh Town Court, County of Westchester, where he served from 2012 to 2017. Judge Rivera is a graduate of Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Judge Rivera began his legal career in 1979 as a Law Clerk for the NYS Court of Appeals. He then served as an Assistant Attorney General of the State of New York from 1981 to 1985. Judge Rivera entered private practice in 1985 and continued to serve a variety of clients until he closed his practice in 2017 to sit as a full-time judge in the Court of Claims. Judge Rivera is an Adjunct Law Professor at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University and also teaches at the College of Westchester. He serves on the Board of Directors of the statewide Latino Judges Association. He has written many decisions as a Town Judge and a Court of Claims Judge, and has been published in the New York Law Journal and Miscellaneous Reports.



Javier J. Diaz is an Employee Benefits Associate at Klein Zelman Rothermel Jacobs & Schess LLP in Midtown, Manhattan where he advises and represents clients on all aspects of ERISA and federal tax as it relates to qualified retirement plans. Javier is also counsel to several union funds in New York and New Jersey where he leads litigated matters in federal court. Before joining Klein Zelman, Javier served the U.S. Department of Labor by initiating national civil and criminal investigations and prosecution of large and varied employee benefit plans, health care insurers, and other financial entities involving ERISA, HIPAA, COBRA, MHPAEA, and ACA.

WORKSHOP – LEGAL WRITING AND PERSUASION: BEST PRACTICES FOR SUCCESS (CONTINUED)



Juan C. Gonzalez is a founding member of the law firm of Rubin Sheeley Paterniti Gonzalez Kaufman LLP and is a resident partner in the firm's New York office. Juan leads a team of attorneys and staff in heading the General Liability, Employment and Appellate Practice Groups. Juan is a seasoned trial and appellate attorney with wide experience representing companies in high-exposure matters across a broad range of industries before mediators, arbitrators, as well as in state and federal trial and appellate courts. Juan's practice includes complex litigation in areas ranging from general liability, product liability claims, catastrophic property and casualty loss, Labor Law, coverage and recovery disputes, professional liability, Dram Shop, and employment discrimination. Juan has also developed an active consultation practice with employers, known as the Employment Practices Liability–Risk Prevention and Management[®] program ("EPL-RPM"), which consists of active Employment Practices audits, trainings and proactive services working closely with employers to guide their day-to-day management decisions to ensure compliance with federal, state and local civil rights laws and, thus, reduce loss risks. Juan also advises businesses, insurers, healthcare enterprises, startups and non-profit corporations on issues and transactions involving contract disputes, negotiations, licensing and privacy, HIPPA and other compliance issues. Over the course of his career, Juan's successes have saved (or recovered) tens of millions of dollars for his clients. Juan is an active member of various bar groups and professional associations, including the Defense Research Institute. He has served on various committees, including the New York County Democratic Independent Judicial Screening Panel for the vetting of State Supreme and Appellate Court vacancies. He also regularly provides his clients with in-house subject-matter trainings and presentations, and also served as Adjunct Professor of Law at St. John's University.

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We invite you all to join us on September 25, 2018 at our **15th Annual Scholarship Gala** themed ***Our Legacy: Quince Años Despues***. The DBA will be celebrating 15 years of continuing scholarship and programs that include community workshops, high school law days, and panels. We encourage law students to apply for our scholarship. For more information about our gala and scholarship please visit:

www.dominicanbarassociation.org

PA'LANTE VIII: *Unidos Venceremos*

Pipeline Program: Admissions to Law School Panel

PANELISTS



Dorothy P. Moran, St. John's University School of Law – Dorothy is the Associate Director of Admissions at St. John's University School of Law. In her current position, her chief responsibilities include: counseling prospective students, developing the Law School's national recruiting strategy each year, handling the bulk of the recruiting for the Law School, and evaluates hundreds of applications for the J.D. program each year. She created and manages the Student Ambassador Program, and oversees the Housing program for all St. John's law students. She collaborates and cultivates relationships with Pre-Law Advisors from undergraduate schools around the country, as well as, students, alumni, and faculty to continue recruiting the next generation of attorneys. Dorothy's initiatives have greatly enhanced St. John's Law School's recruitment efforts. In her former role at St. John's, Dorothy planned and orchestrated all yield events—Admitted Students Day, Open Houses, Information Sessions, and Orientation programs. Prior to St. John's Law School, she served as Recruitment Coordinator, at NYU School of Law.



George A. Justice, Jr., Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center – Mr. Justice earned a Bachelor of Accountancy degree and J.D. at the University of Oklahoma. He practiced law as an Associate with the Law Offices of Redwine and Kappel in Norman, OK. Later, he served as in-house counsel for American Guaranty Title Insurance Company. In 1993, he earned his Master of Divinity degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. He served as Director of Admissions and Dean of Students at the seminary. Following the seminary, Mr. Justice served as Director of Admissions at Louisiana College in Pineville, LA. He began his work in law school administration in 1995 as Assistant Dean for Admissions and Dean of Students at Ohio Northern University College of Law. In 2000, he became Assistant Dean for Admissions at the University of Tulsa College of Law. In September, 2006, Mr. Justice was selected to serve in his current position as Assistant Dean for Admissions at Touro Law Center.



Degna P. Levister, the City University of New York School of Law – Professor Levister began her career as a Registered Professional Nurse. She holds a Master's Degree in Education from Columbia University Teacher's College and a Juris Doctorate Degree. Before joining the faculty of CUNY School of Law, she ran the Urban Justice Center's Homelessness Outreach and Prevention Project, which provides direct civil legal representation to the poor via soup kitchen/food pantry outreach clinics. Her prior professional work was in a variety of positions at The Legal Aid Society including in the Brooklyn Office For The Aging, the Bronx and Brooklyn Neighborhood Offices and the Criminal Appeals Bureau. On the CUNY Law faculty since 2001, Professor Levister has taught in the Lawyering Program, the Irene Diamond Professional Skills Center and in the Pipeline to Justice, which serves as a gateway to a legal career for those traditionally underrepresented in the profession. As a Clinical Law Professor and Supervising Attorney she has taught in the Economic Justice Project, the Health Law Practice Clinic and the Elder Law Clinic. She stepped into the role of Assistant Dean of Admissions in January 2015.



Ryan Larson, The Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University – Ryan is the Associate Director of Enrollment Management at Hofstra Law School. He received his bachelor of arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley in 2008 and his Juris Doctor from Hofstra Law School in 2013. Ryan is a New York licensed attorney and his legal experience has included work at Berry Appleman & Leiden LLP, The City Bar Justice Center, The HIV Law Project and The Hofstra Law Asylum Clinic.

PA'LANTE VIII: *Unidos Venceremos*

Pipeline Program: Careers in Law Panel

PANELISTS



Andrea Madrid, Esq. is a Staff Attorney with the Unaccompanied Minors Program at Catholic Charities Community Services (CCCS), working with detained and released children on immigration removal defense. She began her career at CCCS as a summer intern for the Immigration Legal Services Department and worked in private practice at Castillo & Associates, P.C. focusing on a wide range of immigration issues. She received her J.D. with a certificate in International Law from Pace University School of Law in 2012. During law school, she was awarded the first Delores Scott Brathwaite Social Justice Award in 2011, the Charles H. Revson LSPIN Fellowship in 2010, and practiced as a student attorney in the Immigration Justice Clinic with John Jay Legal Services. She also interned in various public interest organizations such as

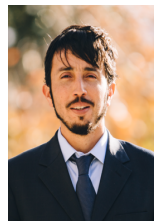
LatinoJustice PRLDEF, Sanctuary for Families and the Urban Justice Center in the Domestic Violence Project. She served as the Policy Initiative Director for the National Latino/a Law Student Association (NLLSA) in 2011 and helped organize MetroLALSA, Inc.



Sebastián Sanchez was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He attended Harvard College, where he served as the Editor-in-Chief of *Zalacain: The Harvard Journal of Latin America*. After graduating from Harvard College, Sebastián worked at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS) where he collaborated closely with professors and Latin American institutions to provide Harvard students with funding to conduct research studies and internships in Latin America. After DRCLAS, Sebastián attended the UPR School of Law from where he completed a one-year exchange program in International and European Law at the University of Antwerp in 2008 and obtained a law degree from the *Facultat de Dret* at the University of Barcelona in 2010. After completing his joint law degrees at the UPR, Sebastián worked as an Associate in the Corporate Group of Pietrantoni Mendez & Alvarez LLC in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In 2015, he graduated with a Masters in Corporation Law (LL.M.) from NYU School of Law, where he was a graduate editor of the *NYU Journal on International Law and Politics* and a member of NYU's Latino Law Students Association. After completing his LL.M., Sebastian joined White & Case LLP and is currently an Associate in the Capital Markets Group.



Christopher A. Carrion is the principal attorney and founder at Carrion Law Group, P.C. ("CLG"). He focuses his practice on criminal defense, family law and general litigation. Prior to founding CLG, Christopher was a Pro-Bono Assistant District Attorney at the Kings County District Attorney's Office, where he prosecuted hundreds of criminal cases and worked on several trials including attempted murder and armed robbery. He has appeared before state and federal courts across NYC and upstate NY. He has advised and counseled clients on issues including misdemeanor & felony charges, grand jury proceedings, labor & employment cases, and matrimonial, child support & custody matters. Christopher obtained his B.A. at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and his J.D. from New York Law School. Christopher is a board member of MetroLALSA, Inc., an active member of the Hispanic National Bar Association, sitting on the Young Lawyers Division Committee for the NY Region.



Camilo A. Romero is the founder of ReGeneración Colombia (www.regeneracion.co), a movement of young Colombians committed to empowering the next generation of civic and cultural leaders through creative peace-building projects. Camilo has led international delegations in Chocó, Colombia as legal director of the National Farmworker Association, organized student and consumer campaigns as a union organizer for the Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores, and designed know-your-rights trainings as legal coordinator for Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, California. Camilo received his B.A. in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley as a Gates Millennium Scholar, and published two honors theses, one on the politics of salsa music. Camilo received his J.D. from NYU School of Law where he graduated as a Root-Tilden-Kern Scholar and

a Paul & Daisy Soros Fellow. Camilo is also a graduate of the Gerry Spence Trial Lawyer's College. He currently serves on the Executive Board of NYU Law's Alumni Association and is a New American Leaders Project Fellow.

PA'LANTE VIII: *Unidos Venceremos*

Pipeline Program: Ask a Law Student

PANELISTS



Brayan Acevedo was born in Puebla, Mexico and immigrated to the United States when he was 5 years old. He has lived in Astoria, Queens for most of his life. Brayan graduated from Hunter College with a dual B.A. in History and Philosophy, and later started law school at Columbia University in 2016. He is currently on the Society for Immigrant and Refugee Rights' executive board and is the current President of the Columbia Latino/a Law Students Association. He has had the privilege of externing at the Bronx Defenders and The Legal Aid Society, where he worked with both of their immigration units. Last summer he worked for the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund in Los Angeles and this summer, he will be working for a Law Firm's corporate department in New York City.



Stefano Perez was born in Newark, NJ and moved to Plantation, FL when he was seven years old. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Criminology from Florida State University in 2014. While pursuing his undergraduate degree, Stefano worked as an aide in the Florida House of Representatives for the Speaker *pro tempore*. Having a passion for politics, public policy, and community service, working at the Florida House was a natural fit. Stefano then headed to New York Law School upon graduation from The Florida State University. While in law school, Stefano has actively been a part of the Municipal Litigation Defense Clinic, Moot Court Association, Trial Competition Team, and the Latin American Law Students' Association. He has also interned at the New York City Law Department in the Tort Division's Special State Law Enforcement Defense Unit and the Special Federal Litigation Division. After graduation from law school, Stefano will be working as an Assistant Corporation Counsel at the New York City Law Department. In his free time, Stefano loves to play tennis, listen to music, and spend time with family!



Vanessa Castello is currently a second year law student at Fordham University school of Law. Raised in New York, she has been dedicated to advocacy since high school. Vanessa went on to earn her undergraduate degree in Earth and Environmental Science and Anthropology from Wesleyan University. Her undergraduate education fostered her passion for science, inspiring her to explore how the study of science and the law intersect. At Fordham, Vanessa aspires to promote diversity in the legal profession and pursue her interest in intellectual property and corporate compliance law.



Chloe Caban, was born and raised in the Bronx. She graduated from Baruch College with a B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Black and Hispanic Studies. Chloe is grateful for the opportunity provided by CUNY School of Law's Pipeline to Justice Program; whose mission is to assist underrepresented students in attending law school. Last year, she interned with the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem and will be interning with the Legal Aid Society of Westchester County this upcoming summer.

PA'LANTE VIII: *Unidos Venceremos*

Pipeline Program: Mock 1L Class

DESCRIPTION

Join Professor Cohen and Professor McLaughlin as they teach a mock law school class for pipeline students based on *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, a 2017 Supreme Court case ruling that immigrants do not have a right to bail in connection with their detention by ICE.

PANELISTS



Professor Randolph M. McLaughlin, a graduate of Columbia College and Harvard Law School, became Of Counsel to Newman Ferrara LLP in September 2011. Professor McLaughlin is a faculty member at Pace University School of Law, where he teaches courses focusing on civil rights, litigation, labor law, voting rights, civil procedure, and New York practice. Before joining Pace's law faculty in 1988, Professor McLaughlin was associated with Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, where he specialized in civil litigation and labor law. In 1978, he began his legal career at the Center for Constitutional Rights, a civil-rights/civil-liberties legal organization in NYC. In 1982, he won an award of \$535,000 for five black women who had been attacked by members of the Chattanooga Ku Klux Klan. In 1985, Professor McLaughlin represented two civil-rights leaders in a constitutional- tort action against a former U.S. Senator, a Senate investigator, and a Kentucky prosecutor, in connection with the search and seizure of the plaintiffs' personal papers in violation of the Fourth Amendment. On February 20, 1997, Professor McLaughlin won a landmark victory in a voting-rights case against the Town of Hempstead, N.Y., entitled *Goosby v. Town Board of the Town of Hempstead*. In addition to his litigation practice, Professor McLaughlin has represented and advised not-for-profit charities in connection with governance and best-practice issues. In 2001, Professor McLaughlin was appointed special counsel to Hale House Center which provides 24-hour residential care for infants and toddlers who were born to drug addicted mothers unable to care for their children. Professor McLaughlin successfully negotiated a resolution of an investigation by the NYS Attorney General into the charity. After a new Board of Directors was appointed, Professor McLaughlin was retained to serve as general counsel to assist in the restructuring of the organization.



Debra S. Cohen co-chairs Newman Ferrara LLP's Civil Rights Practice Group where she concentrates in litigation involving police misconduct. Ms. Cohen's first civil rights case involved the 1996 death of Charles Campbell – shot in a Westchester parking lot by an off-duty NYC police officer (who was later convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to twenty years to life in prison). In a subsequently filed civil suit, a federal jury awarded the Campbell family a multi-million dollar verdict. Since then, Ms. Cohen has represented a wide variety of clients whose civil rights and constitutional entitlements were violated by police, schools, local planning and building department officials, as well as private employers. In addition to her litigation practice, she has also written op-eds which have been published by the New York Times, the New York Daily News, Gannett's Journal News and other regional and national newspapers. In an article published by the New York Law Journal on February 17, 2017, Ms. Cohen advocated for reform of how the NYPD responds to calls involving people with mental illnesses. In 2017, Ms. Cohen's professional contributions and achievements were acknowledged by the Westchester Martin Luther

King, Jr. Institute for Non-Violence. Ms. Cohen is admitted in the State of New York, as well as the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. A graduate of Vassar College and Pace Law, she has been an Adjunct Professor at Pace since 2005 teaching civil rights law.



MetroLALSALSA, Inc. Executive Board, 2018-2019

MetroLALSALSA, Inc. Executive Board positions are open to law students (enrolled during the 2017-2018 academic year) of the thirteen participating law schools. The thirteen schools are:

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CUNY Law School
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Brooklyn Law School
Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University
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The eight Executive Board positions are:

President	Vice-President of Alumni Relations
Treasurer	Vice-President of Social Action
Secretary	Director of Fundraising
Vice-President of Public Relations	Vice-President of Pipeline Membership

Interested Candidates should submit (1) a 1-2 page Statement of Interest, (2) an up-to-date Resume, and (3) a list of up to 3 preferred Executive Board positions, in order of preference to metrolalsaorg@gmail.com by **Monday April 16th, 2018, 11:59pm EST**.

Elections will take place at the **New York City Bar Association, 42 W 44th St, on Friday April 20th, 2018, 5:00pm**. Candidates must attend.

PA'LANTE VIII: UNIDOS VENCEREMOS

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Ethics in Plea Bargaining: Collateral Consequences and the Effects on Our Community – Nicholas Oliva, St. John's University School of Law
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Legal Writing and Persuasion: Best Practices for Success – Matthew Fernandez Konigsberg, HNBA Region II President

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Matthew Fernandez Konigsberg and Peter Garcia for being so helpful
To our Volunteers and Panelists: Thank you for helping us make Pa'lante VIII a success!



PA'LANTE VIII: *UNIDOS VENCEREMOS*

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SILENT AUCTION

MetroLALSA is pleased to showcase a silent auction during Pa'lante VIII! The silent auction is a coordinated effort to raise funds and support the next Executive Board and class of students. Funds raised through the silent auction will support opportunities for law student scholarships, law student i for attendance at conferences across the nation, pre-law pipeline initiatives, community service efforts, and more! Please support our student by visiting the silent auction during the conference and bidding on the exhibition items.

Below, please find a list of our auction items, for pricing and showcase, please visit the silent auction table during breakfast, lunch and panel breaks!

1. Two tickets for New York Red Bulls Home Game
2. Signed baseball from Hall of Fame athlete, Ron Guidry
3. 1 Personal Training Session + 2 Private Dance lessons at The Fitness Cell
4. 3 Personal Training Sessions with Revival Fitness
5. Breads Bakery Gift Card



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