



Message from the President



Dear Members,

This was a busy month for HLA I. Many events were co-sponsored by HLA I, such as the Women Running for Public Office panel discussion and the Haiti Forum.

On October 12th HLA I in conjunction with The National Hispanic Bar Association Region IV and the National Hispanic Prosecutors Association Region IV held a general membership meeting/social. The event was well attended, students and attorneys were able to network and learn about the organizations.

The JD Mentor Program had their kickoff on October 21st. There is still time to sign up to be part of this important committee. We are in need of attorney mentors. Please consider being a mentor, together we can plant the seeds for the next generation of successful attorneys.

A notice of vacancy for Associate Judges, in the Circuit Court of Cook County, was announced. The judicial evaluations committee will need HLA I members to participate in the evaluation process of the candidates. Please contact Federico Rodriguez at federicochicagolaw@hotmail.com or myself, if you are interested in volunteering on this committee.

If you have any programs you would like to see HLA I offer. Please contact me at rosasilva73@hotmail.com

The Board looks forward to working with our membership.

Saludos,

Rosa Maria Silva

Announcements

Congratulations to **Judge Ruben Castillo**, of the Northern District Court of Illinois for receiving The 2010 Advocate for Diversity Award. He was presented with this award at the Unity Dinner on October 7, 2010



Judge Ruben Castillo has served as a district judge for the Northern District of Illinois since 1994. From 1991–1994, he was a partner in the Chicago office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP and was the regional counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund from 1988–1991. Judge Castillo served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois from 1984–1988 and was previously with the firm Jenner & Block LLP. He is an adjunct professor of trial advocacy at Northwestern University School of Law, where he has taught since 1988. Judge Castillo received a BA degree from Loyola University Chicago, and a JD degree from Northwestern University School of Law, where he served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*. Judge Castillo has been involved in the criminal justice system since 1978 when he was appointed as a deputy clerk for the criminal courts, a position he maintained throughout college and law school. In 1999, Judge Castillo was appointed and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve a four-year term on the United States Sentencing Commission, an independent seven-person commission which sets sentencing policy for all federal crimes.



Congratulations to **Judge Jesse Reyes** for being recognized by **Chicago-Kent Hispanic-Latino Law Students Association** for his dedication to public service and contributions to the Latino Community. He received this award on October 20th.

Congratulations to **Judge Jorge L. Alonso** and **Al Maldonado** who were chosen to be principals for a day at Kanoon Elementary.

Congratulations to **Mercedes Luque Rosales** for being elected as the President Elect for the National Hispanic Prosecutors Association. Mercy previously served as the President of HLA I. She is employed by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.



Congratulations to **Jessenia Vazcones** who has named editor of the Journal of International and Comparative Law. Jessenia is a second year law student at Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Congratulations to **Claudia Castro** for being elected Recording Secretary for the National Hispanic Prosecutors Association. Claudia is currently a board member of HLA I. She is employed by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

Congratulations to **Paul Joyce** for being elected Region IV President of the National Hispanic Prosecutors Association. He is employed by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

Congratulations to **Sophia Lopez** on being elected Treasurer of National Hispanic Prosecutors Association. She is employed by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

Congratulations to **Ed Murillo** for being elected Membership Secretary of the National Hispanic Prosecutors Association. He is employed by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

Congratulations to **Mildred Herrera, Edmundo Cuevas, Hugo Ortiz, Nubia Willman, Erika Tovar, Nate Hernandez, Michael Roman, Andrea Belard, Leonardo Morales, Anna Lusero, Emiliano Perez, Yacoo Meah, Alexa Cubas, Erin Bybee, Alexandra Martinez, Yvette Lopez, Olivia Villegas, Maria Bocanegra, Cynthia Lopez, Carlos Ocampo Torres, Rocio Alcantar, Pedro Israel Fernandez, Sally Valazquez & Lydia Colunga-Merchant**, to name a few, for passing the bar exam!

*****HLAI invites notices of member's achievements. Please submit them to Claudia Castro at cecklc2003@yahoo.com*****

October Overview

HLAI General Membership meeting/social was held on October 12th. **Anita Alvarez** was the keynote speaker. A special thanks to **Alex Menchaca** and the law firm of **McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.** for graciously opening up their offices and providing drinks and appetizers. HLA I would also like to thank Anita Alvarez for speaking at the event and Claudia Castro for securing the presence of Anita Alvarez. Fun was had by all.



HLAI participated in the **Unity Dinner** on October 7th. More than 50 local and regional Illinois bar groups met for a symbolic swearing-in ceremony to affirm and celebrate the Illinois legal community's commitment to diversity, in the Grand Ballroom of the Palmer House Hilton. The Unity Award Dinner honored Dan K. Webb, chairman of Winston & Strawn LLP, with the 2010 Unity Award. The 2010 Advocate for Diversity Award was awarded to **Judge Rueben Castillo**, of the Northern District Court of Illinois, and Sandra S. Yamate, CEO of the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession and founder of Polychrome Publishing Corporation.



JD Mentors had their kickoff on October 21st. A special thanks goes out to **Daniel Trevino** & the firm of **Hinshaw and Culbertson, LLP** for hosting this event.



In 2004, HLAI established the JD Mentors Program with the goal of maximizing the number of Hispanics applying to law schools and cultivating the academic and professional success of those students. To accomplish this goal, the JD Mentors Program puts together a law student and a practicing attorney, with similar career goals or interests. This allows each of the participants at different stages in their careers to add a unique and helpful component to the overall mentor-mentee relationship.

It is important to note that the “JD” in “JD Mentors,” not only stands for “Juris Doctor,” but is also an acronym for “juntos destacando,” which in Spanish means “advancing together.” Consequently, the name “JD Mentors” embodies the purpose and spirit of the program of “mentors helping each other to succeed.”

While each of the mentor groups are encouraged to get to know each other on an informal basis, HLAI also schedules periodic events that allow mentors and mentees to further cultivate their group relationships as well as meet other program participants.

The JD Mentors Program is an overwhelming success as demonstrated by the increasing interest of Hispanic students and attorneys in the program every year. To ensure its continuing success, the JD Mentors Program Committee conducts an annual review to confirm that the relevant needs of the program’s participants are being met and that the overall goal of diversifying the legal community is being furthered.

If you would like to participate in or learn more about, the program, contact Cesar Orozco at cesar.orozco@gmail.com ,





Olga Gutierrez at Gutierrez.olga@gmail.com or Kevin Gallardo at gallardo.kevin@gmail.com. Together we can plant the seeds for the next generation of successful Hispanic attorneys!

HLAI Co-hosted with **The Diversity Scholarship Foundation, NFP**, a panel discussion entitled Women Running for Public Office, the Challenges We Face & How to Overcome them.

The event featured :

Stephanie Neely, *City of Chicago Treasurer*,
Dorothy Brown *Clerk of the Cook County Circuit Court*, Robin Kelly *Candidate for Illinois State Treasurer*,
Sheila Simon

Candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Illinois
(*Professor of Law, Southern Illinois University School of Law*) and

Jan Schakowsky, *Congresswoman, 9th District of Illinois*
The event took place on October 21st at the Allegro Hotel. (3 CLE credits are pending approval)

The Illinois Judicial Council with The Haitian American Lawyers Association presented *Haiti: Past, Present and Future Prospects* on October 14, 2010. **HLAI** was one of the co-sponsors.

Upcoming Events/Save the Dates! November Events

DePaul College of Law LLSA Alumni Networking Reception, Thursday, November 4, 2010 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Please join the Latino Law Student Association as we celebrate our alumni, welcome new students and make connections. Café Iberico, 739 North LaSalle Boulevard, Chicago. Hors d'oeuvres & cocktails will be served. Tickets: \$25/student; \$35/non-student Please RSVP to Ilsa.depaulalumni@gmail.com by November 1st.

The **Puerto Bar Association of Illinois** will host its annual scholarship dinner on November 9th at V-Live. **HLAI** has some tickets available for purchase, if interested please contact rosasilva@hotmail.com.

The **Chicago Bar Association, Young Lawyers Section & the Illinois State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division** invite you to the Chicago "All Bar Social" on Wednesday, November 10, 2010. The event will run from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Rumba, 351 W Hubbard, in Chicago. The event will allow leaders and members of all bar associations to enjoy complimentary appetizers and two drink tickets while meeting in a casual environment. **HLAI** is one of the co-sponsors.

HLAI will be participating in the attorney admission ceremony scheduled for Thursday, November 4th. The ceremony will take place at McCormick Place West. Congratulations to all the soon to be newly admitted attorneys.

The ABA Section of Labor and Employment Law ~4th Annual Conference Diversity Reception

HLAI members are invited to attend the 4th Annual Section of Labor & Employment Law Conference. The Conference will be held from November 3-6, 2010 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown. The complete Conference program and cost to attend is posted online at www.abanet.org/labor/2010conference.html.

The ABA Section of Labor & Employment Law is committed to advancing diversity in the ABA and the Bar. Our members represent employers/management, plaintiffs/employees, unions, corporations and government agencies. The Section would like to provide your members the opportunity to attend this important Conference.

HLAI will be one of the hosts for the Diversity Reception, which will be held Thursday, November 4th at the Chicago Cultural Center from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. This reception will provide a forum for diverse attorneys to network and share stories and experiences from across the management, employee/plaintiff, union and government bars.

December Events

Save the date, **HLAI** will be having its annual Holiday Party on December 2, 2010 at Vision Nightclub. Details to follow.

HLAI in conjunction with the **Latin American Police Association (LAPA)** will be holding their annual food drive to benefit St. Aloysius. This food drive has been a success in the past years due to volunteer donations and participation on the day of the event. This year the event will be held on December 11th. We are in need of volunteers and monetary donations. If you are interested in donating or volunteering please contact David Herrera at dcherrera@hotmail.com

January Events

HLAI Charities, is planning a Noche de Risas fundraiser at the Chicago Center of Performing Arts. Details are being finalized for this event.



Volunteer/Misc. Opportunities

A notice of vacancy for Associate Judges, in the Circuit Court of Cook County, was announced. The **Judicial Committee** will need HLAI members to participate in the evaluation process of the candidates. If you are interested in volunteering on this committee, please contact Federico Rodriguez at federicochicagolaw@hotmail.com or rosasilva73@hotmail.com

Judge Alonso & Al Maldonado are looking for volunteers to start an afternoon program at Kanoon Elementary. This school is located in the Little Village neighborhood. If you are interested please contact rosasilva73@hotmail.com



Would you like to connect with other Latina lawyers/law students? If yes please contact the Latina Lawyers Committee at latina.lawyers@yahoo.com

Recently several LLC committee members participated in the Day of the Dead Race for UNO on October 30, 2010.

Employment Opportunities

The **Peoria** office of **Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP**, a leading national law firm, is seeking a Litigation Associate with at least three years of Civil Litigation and/or Medical Malpractice experience. A commitment to exceptional client service, top quality written work product, excellent research skills, strong academic credentials and an interest and willingness to participate in business development efforts is required.

This is an exceptional opportunity for candidates seeking a high level of responsibility in a diverse and progressive law firm environment. The Firm offers a competitive benefits package and opportunity for advancement.

Please submit your resume and cover letter in confidence to:

Lori Brooks

Office Manager

email: lbrooks@hinshawlaw.com

www.hinshawlaw.com

Only candidates contacted for an interview will receive a response. Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP is an Affirmative Action EEO Employer.

The Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender

Is accepting applications for **Assistant Public Defender I, 00061208** Job Posting, Oct 4, 2010, Closing Date Dec 27, 2010 Posting Salary:1,886.08, bi-weekly. Job Description: Under supervision, functions as an attorney performing beginning level legal work and related tasks, as assigned, in representing clients and matters accepted by or assigned to the Public Defender; participates in and assumes progressively increasing responsibility for cases and matters of minor to moderate difficulty and complexity, particularly with respect to appeals, misdemeanors, delinquency petitions, abuse and neglect cases, habeas corpus, preliminary hearings and minor felonies; assumes responsibility in the various divisions, including Legal Resources, Municipal, Juvenile and Civil.

Minimum Qualifications:

Graduation from an accredited law school.

Must be admitted to practice law in Illinois within **six (6) months** of application filing..

No previous experience as a practicing attorney is required, but prior experience in criminal or juvenile law is preferred

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities and Other Characteristics:

Must be able to clearly, logically and effectively express verbal and written thoughts and opinions and possess a thorough and accurate knowledge of basic legal principles, concepts and vernacular. Ability to effectively communicate and interact with diverse cultures and low income persons in consultations, interviews and investigations. Ability to probe into sensitive social issues involving family, (i.e. sexual abuse, child abuse, substance abuse and domestic violence). Ability to conduct excellent trial advocacy work, interviews and investigations. Ability to consult with social workers, probation officers, medical experts, legal associates and others to assess the options available to the defense and to advise clients of the same.

To apply please go to

<https://cookcountyl.taleo.net/careersection/100/unavailablerequirement.ftl>

You will need to click return to homepage and then enter a search for public defender.

Chicago Police Department

Chicago Police Superintendent Announces Written Exam for Chicago — Superintendent Jody P. Weis announced that the City will be administering the Pre-employment Written Exam for the position of Chicago Police Officer on December 11, 2010, at McCormick Place in Chicago. Applications will be accepted online from today, October 28th through November 26, 2010 at www.chicagopolice.org.

Eligibility Requirements include:

Age – To apply, you must be at least 25 years old by the date of application unless you are a current or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States with a minimum of 3 consecutive years of active duty, in which case you must be at least 21 years old. You must be less than 40 years old at the time of hire.

Drivers License – You must have a valid driver's license to apply and will need a valid Illinois driver's license at the time of hire.

Education/ Military Service – In order apply, you must have:

* 60 semester or 90 quarter hours from an accredited college or



university; or

* Served 3 full consecutive years on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States; or

* 30 semester or 45 quarter hours from an accredited college or university and served 1 consecutive year on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Residency Requirement – You are not required to be a resident of the City of Chicago at the time of application. However, you will be required to be a resident of the City of Chicago if hired.

Firearm Owner's Identification Card (FOID) – You will need a FOID card issued by the State of Illinois at the time of hire.

Hiring Process – You will be required to take an examination administered on December 11, 2010 at McCormick Place. After the examination, you will be required to undergo a background investigation, medical examination, psychological assessment, drug screens, fitness tests and other pre-employment procedures as determined by the Chicago Police Department before being eligible for hire. If a candidate passes all of the aforementioned examinations, they are eligible to advance to the next phase in the Police Academy. At this point candidates are required to take over 20 exams including: 16 written exams, seven proficiency tests and all candidates must pass a State test in order to become a Chicago Police Officer. At the conclusion of this process, the Department plans to hire two additional classes in 2011, adding between 150 to 200 new police officers to the force. That is in addition to the nearly 800 officers added to street duty over the past two years.

Additional information can be obtained by visiting www.chicagopolice.org and click on "Answer the Call" to link to the on-line application. If you have additional questions, please call 311 or the customer service line at 312-744-4976/312-744-4976 Monday through Saturday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Scholarship/Student Opportunities

Students who are interested in being part of the JD Mentors program please contact one of the following committee members
Cesar Orozco at cesar.orozco@gmail.com
Olga Gutierrez at Gutierrez.olga@gmail.com or
Kevin Gallardo at gallardo.kevin@gmail.com

Membership Benefits

HLAI is participating in the American Airlines Business ExtrAA Travel Awards Program to earn travel rewards for travel to the HNBA Conference and other professional events as designated by the board.

By designating HLA I as your business, **YOU and HLA I, BOTH, can earn travel rewards toward future travel. Please include HLA I during your summer air travel on AA!!**

Business Name: HLA I Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois

Business ExtrAA Account Number: 787505

To earn Business ExtrAA travel rewards, all you need to do is ensure the HLA I Business ExtrAA account number appears on all your tickets with American Airlines, American Eagle® or AmericanConnection®.