



## Message from the President



Dear Members,

HLAI is in the process of planning events to bring our members and other professional organizations together for mentoring and networking opportunities. The Board is finalizing speakers for a seminar in March.

In January, HLA I sponsored and co-sponsored various events. These events were well attended thanks to the support of members.

Please remember to renew your dues. Your dues help HLA I continue to provide programs to our attorney and student members.

If you have any programs you would like to see HLA I offer or are interested in running for a board position please contact me at [rosasilva73@hotmail.com](mailto:rosasilva73@hotmail.com).

The Board looks forward to working with our membership.

Saludos,

Rosa Maria Silva

## Announcements



Congratulations to **Salvador Cicero**, HLA I President-elect, for receiving the 2011 Northwestern University's DREAM Award. The DREAM Award is given by Northwestern University Martin Luther King Jr.'s DREAM Committee to an individual who demonstrates sustained commitment to social justice and equality in the fields of Law or Medicine. Northwestern University D.R.E.A.M. is the acronym for Day to Recognize the Efforts and Achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Committee coordinates lectures and programs on the nationally observed birthday of Dr. King to educate the Chicago community on the teachings and contributions of Dr. King. Past Speakers have included Tavis Smiley, Eboo Patel, Cornell West and Clarence Page among others. Past award recipients include Carmen Velasquez, of Chicago's Alivio Health Care.

Salvador Cicero is a founder of the Law Offices of Salvador A. Cicero, P.C. D/B/A The Cicero Law Firm, P.C. Prior to the firm, Mr. Cicero served as Research Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and Director of the American Bar Association's Project to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Ecuador (2005-2006). Mr. Cicero was also a career member of the Foreign Service of Mexico, and served in various Senior level positions at the Mexican Foreign Ministry.





Congratulations to Claudia Castro, HLAI Board member, for being accepted to The Alliance Partnership Prosecution Project. The Conference of Western Attorneys General received a major grant from the State Department to train Mexican prosecutors and judges in the American-style adversarial trial process. The program consist of NITA-style advocacy training. The program runs for approximately 5 days. This year they are scheduled to take place in Mexico City, San Diego, Tabasco, Phoenix, Denver, and Vegas. Mexico is in the midst of a legal reform called juicios orales (oral trials) in order to establish greater public confidence in the Mexican criminal justice system. The basic concept of oral trials is that the judges will now hear arguments delivered orally, rather than through the submission of written briefs. Claudia Castro will be traveling to Mexico to train lawyers in Mexico.

better learn criminal law, she has argued matters before the Illinois Appellate Court. After the Appeals Bureau, Martha-Victoria was promoted to the Juvenile Justice Division. In both the Abuse and Neglect, as well as the Delinquency Divisions of that bureau, she prosecuted over one hundred trials involving felony and misdemeanor offenses as well as charges of parental abuse, neglect, and unfitness pursuant to the Juvenile Court Act.



Congratulations to Iris Chavira and Ed Murillo for receiving the John R. Justice Grant.



Congratulations to **Martha-Victoria Diaz**, HLAI Board Member, who won a Not Liable jury verdict on behalf of the City of Chicago and a police officer in a Section 1983 civil rights case in federal court. The trial took place before the Northern District of Illinois Chief Judge William Holderman. The Plaintiff Beverly Thurman alleged Fourth Amendment seizure as well as conversion under Illinois state common law. The jury returned their verdict in favor of the Defendants in less than two hours. The verdict represents the first trial the firm has undertaken for the City of Chicago Civil Rights Litigation Division under a new policy to take cases to trial rather than routinely settling the cases. The case received notice in the country's paper of record The New York Times.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/28/us/28cncpolice.html?ref=police>

Martha-Victoria Diaz is an associate at the firm of Sanchez, Daniels and Hoffman, LLP. Martha-Victoria specializes in Municipal and Educational Litigation, Federal and State Civil Rights Litigation, Products Liability, and Toxic Torts. She also provides pro bono representation of Mexican nationals through the Labor & Employment Program at the Mexican Consulate in Chicago, IL.

Prior to her civil practice, from August of 2002 until August of 2006, Martha-Victoria was Assistant State's Attorney at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. She started in the Appeals Bureau and besides having an in-depth opportunity to

**\*\*\*HLAI invites notices of member's achievements. Please submit them to Claudia Castro at [cecklc2003@yahoo.com](mailto:cecklc2003@yahoo.com)\*\*\***

## January Overview

Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois co-sponsored. A Conversation with **Justice Sonia Sotomayor**. The event took place on Monday, January 31, 2011 at the Standard Club





Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois Charities hosted for a night of laughs, with the show “Law and Disorder with Comedian Elizardi Castro” at the Center for the Performing Arts on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Over 100 people attended the event. Proceeds from the event will fund the JD Mentors program and other philanthropic endeavors.



On January 22, 2011, the **Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois** held a panel discussion on “**How to Effectively Network**” for Hispanic law students. Approximately 40 students from most of the 9 law schools in Illinois attended and learned strategic methods of networking. The panel speakers included **Ruben R. Chapa**, who is senior trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Solicitor, **Judge Jesse G. Reyes**, who is a Circuit Judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County, **James Botana**, who is a partner at Jackson and Lewis and **Lisa Acevedo**, who is a partner in the Health Law Group at Quarles and Brady. Quarles and Brady graciously hosted the event and a reception at their offices. A special thanks to **Anna Lozoya**, a law student at DePaul for helping coordinate this event.





## Upcoming Events/Save the Dates! February Events

On **February 8, 2011**, the HLAI board have its monthly meeting. These meetings are open to members. The meetings start at 6:00 p.m. and are held at Sanchez, Daniels and Hoffman located at 333 West Wacker, Suite 700, Chicago, Illinois. If you would like to attend please rsvp by February 6, 2011 to [rosasilva73@hotmail.com](mailto:rosasilva73@hotmail.com)

HLAI will be co-sponsoring the All-Bar "**Winter Chill**" Networking and Reception. The event is being hosted by the law firm of Drinkle Biddle and Reath and the Diversity Scholarship Foundation. At the event, DSF will provide information regarding its scholarship programs.

**DATE:** Thursday, February 17, 2011

**TIME:** 5:30-7:30

**LOCATION:** DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH, LLP

191 North Wacker Drive

**COST:** \$35 / person

(Covers cost of the event and therefore may not be deductible)  
Includes hors d'ouvres, beer and wine

**Space is limited!** Please RSVP by February 10th to Tammy Novak at [tnovak17@yahoo.com](mailto:tnovak17@yahoo.com) or 312-405-0670

## March Events

HLAI is in the process of finalizing a seminar for March.

## April Events

The **Vanguard Awards** will take place on April 13, 2011.

If you are interested in purchasing a ticket to this event please email [rosasilva73@hotmail.com](mailto:rosasilva73@hotmail.com). HLAI will be recognizing Judge Manuel Barbosa.

## Volunteer/Misc. Opportunities

HLAI **judicial committee** is looking for attorney members, that are interested in being an investigator or an evaluator. The Alliance of Bar Association is in the process of evaluating judicial candidates who have submitted an application to be a associate judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County. If you would like to participate in this committee please contact [federicochicagolaw@hotmail.com](mailto:federicochicagolaw@hotmail.com)

The **Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago** is looking for volunteer attorneys that would be interested in serving in a Pro Se Bankruptcy Clinic for low-income clients. If not already familiar with bankruptcy law, volunteers will attend a training session to learn the basics of bankruptcy law from a twenty-year-veteran in bankruptcy. The volunteers' responsibilities at the clinic will be discussing individual clients' bankruptcy cases with them and giving them personalized

advice. LAF's supervisory bankruptcy attorney will be present at the clinic to answer any especially unique or difficult problems. The time commitment would be one-and-a-half hours for the training session, plus around two hours over two weeks for every clinic cycle attended. The clinic is split into two sessions one week apart, and although it is hoped that many clients will be able to meet with the same attorney during the first and second week, volunteer attorneys are free to attend whichever clinic sessions fit into their schedules, even if that means attending only the first or second session of a clinic cycle.

The training session will be held February 11 from 4:00PM-5:30PM at LAF's downtown office at 111 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60604. The first clinic will be held February 24 at 5:00PM and March 3 at 5:00PM at the Jackson location. Attorneys that attend the February 11 training session are not required to participate in the first clinic cycle, as the time commitment may be overly excessive for some. If interested in volunteering or desirous of more information, please contact Benjamin Luehrs at (312) 431-2106 or [bluehrs@lafchicago.org](mailto:bluehrs@lafchicago.org).

The **International Law Students Association** is currently seeking volunteers to serve as judges for the U.S. Midwest Super Regional Rounds of the 2011 Jessup Competition, which will be held February 10-13<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at Chicago-Kent College of Law in Chicago, Illinois.

Now in its 52<sup>nd</sup> year, the Jessup Competition is the world's largest moot court competition, with participants from more than 500 law schools in over 80 countries. The Competition is a simulation of a fictional dispute between countries before the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Representing both sides of the argument, each team of students is evaluated based on oral and written pleadings.

We are looking for volunteers to serve as judges for both the oral and written components of the competition. Each oral round is approximately two hours long. Volunteers can judge as few as one and as many as five oral matches. Overall preparation time to serve as a judge is about two hours.

Volunteers who judge written briefs may complete their service without attending the competition. Written briefs will be sent via email, and the scores can be returned by fax or email. Although not required, we strongly recommend that oral round judges also grade written briefs to prepare for the competition.

In all, we need to recruit 24 volunteers to judge written briefs and 72 volunteers to judge the following oral rounds:

### Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Round 1: 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Round 2: 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Round 3: 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

### Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011



Round 4: 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Round 5: 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

If you would like to volunteer to judge memorials and/or oral rounds for the Jessup Competition, please contact me, Rachel Mercer, the Administrator of the U.S. Midwest Super Regional Rounds, at [RMercer@ILSA.org](mailto:RMercer@ILSA.org), and indicate the rounds for which you are available.

## **Social Security's Retirement Estimator is in Spanish**

Social Security's most popular online service, the Retirement Estimator, is now available in Spanish at [www.segurosocial.gov/calculador](http://www.segurosocial.gov/calculador). The Retirement Estimator uses a person's own Social Security earnings record to provide immediate and personalized benefit estimates. To publicize the website and the new Spanish-language service, Social Security has enlisted the help of the widely popular host of **Sábado Gigante, Don Francisco**.

"The Retirement Estimator is the first of our online services available in Spanish," said Commissioner Michael J. Astrue. "But we are not stopping there. We are working to make our online retirement application and Medicare Extra Help application available in Spanish next year. Until then, visit [www.segurosocial.gov](http://www.segurosocial.gov) to estimate your benefits and learn more about Social Security."

Check out the Spanish-language Retirement Estimator and watch a quick video with Don Francisco now at [www.segurosocial.gov/calculador](http://www.segurosocial.gov/calculador).



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

## **Student Opportunities**

The U.S. Department of State's is accepting applications for **2011 Fall Student Internship Program**.

Click here (<http://careers.state.gov/students/programs>), and click on **Student Internships** under Undergraduate or Graduate/Post-Graduate) for more information, and to start the Gateway to State online application process via USAJobs.

**Please note that the deadline to submit completed applications is March 01, 2011.**

You must be a U.S. Citizen and a student (a full- or part-time continuing college or university junior, or graduate student - including graduating seniors intending to go on to graduate school) to be eligible. **Please read the program description**

**and vacancy announcement for more information and all qualification requirements.**

We appreciate your interest in a career with the U.S. Department of State.

## **Mayor's Office Fellowship Program - Summer 2011**

### **·Program Background**

The City of Chicago is strongly committed to improving public services for its citizens.

Attaining this goal requires the hard work and dedication of qualified public service professionals. Recruiting highly qualified graduate level students, from universities across the country, has proven to be one of the best ways to attain this goal.

The Mayor's Office Fellowship Program attracts bright, highly motivated individuals, gives them a broad overview of municipal government and provides a unique, "hands-on" experience. Fellows participate in budgetary, legislative, and programmatic areas of city government and work directly with Mayor's Office staff. Mayoral Fellows are afforded an unparalleled opportunity to learn about public service and policy-making by directly contributing to the executive office of the City of Chicago.

### **Objectives**

Through the Mayor's Office Fellowship Program, you may accomplish the following:

- Develop new initiatives that keep Chicago green;
- Research ways to keep Chicago affordable;
- Work on workforce development initiatives targeting specific industries;
- Outline best practices in public safety programs and youth engagement;
- Research and compare housing-related policies in U.S. cities;
- Create innovative solutions to traffic and infrastructure challenges;
- Recommend ways to better integrate technology with City functions;
- Analyze information on regional issues and Great Lakes policies;
- Create new programs that connect City residents with the great cultural resources of Chicago.

### **Nature of the Program**

The City of Chicago Mayor's Office Fellowship Program offers fellowships to students interested in learning about City government and public policy. The program provides an in-depth view of how City government operates. Fellows will have the opportunity to:

- Work directly with the Mayor's senior staff;



- Research policies and evaluate their potential benefit to Chicago;
- Draft memoranda on upcoming issues and new initiatives;
- Interact with and attend meetings with Commissioners, Aldermen, senior-level staff from various City departments, and experts in a variety of policy fields;
- Learn about the work and mission of the City's departments through weekly presentations by department commissioners and senior level staff, and through guided tours of City facilities.
- Attend press conferences, City Council hearings, senior staff meetings, and strategic planning sessions.
- Develop "New Ideas" for policies and initiatives.

## Eligibility Criteria

The Mayor's Office encourages graduate students from all disciplines to apply. While there are no preferences to specific graduate fields or majors, the program seeks candidates who are enthusiastic to learn about city government and have demonstrated a substantial commitment to excellence as evidenced by academic honors, leadership ability, extracurricular activities, and involvement in community or public service. You must be a currently enrolled student at the time of employment in order to be eligible.

International students must have an F-1 Student Visa and must be a full-time student. International students are required to have a social security number/card which states "VALID FOR WORK ONLY WITH DHS AUTHORIZATION." The college or university can assist international students with obtaining authorization.

(DHS = Department of Homeland Security).

## Selection Process

Completed applications for participation in **the summer session (June 13, 2011 through August 26, 2011) must be postmarked no later than FEBRUARY 11, 2011**. Candidates must submit an application, which requires two written responses and two letters of recommendation, as well as a resume, official transcript and letter of enrollment. [Download an application here.](#)

Applications will be screened for eligibility and qualifications. Applicants will be selected for interviews and based upon the results of the interview process, a final selection of fellows will be made.

Candidates are selected on a nationwide basis from public and private colleges and universities. Candidates must be current students with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or a minimum cumulative GPA of 4.0 on a 5.0 scale. Fellows are not classified as full-time employees. Residency in the City of Chicago is required prior to starting the fellowship program.

Relocation is at the applicant's expense. Fellows are paid at a rate of \$20 per hour.

For further information, contact Kathryn O'Connell, Office of the Mayor, 121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 406, Chicago, IL 60602, 312-744-9500.

[Download an application here.](#)

## Membership Opportunities

Members if you practice in the **area of criminal law** and are interested in participating in the CCBA In Court Bar Lawyer Referral Program, please contact CCBA 2nd Vice President John Fairman at 708.288.0561. Please let them know you are a member of HLA I.

Members can join the **Hispanic National Bar Association** at a reduced fee. HLA I is an affiliate member of HNBA. HNBA membership year is from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

The HNBA membership benefits include networking opportunities within your region and at our national events; CLE accreditation; participation in HNBA's substantive law sections and standing committees; and HNBA's publications, including E-Noticias (electronic) and Noticias (print).

Within 30 days after completing your membership application, you will receive your HNBA membership card. If you have any questions about the HNBA membership process, please contact Sarah Ramirez, HNBA Membership Relations Manager, at (202) 223-4777 ext. 306 or [sramirez@hnba.com](mailto:sramirez@hnba.com).

HLA I 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®