



## Message from the President



Dear Members,

I would like to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to be president of this great organization. Throughout this year I have had an opportunity to meet many of you. As an organization we were able to put together many events. With your help we were able to raise money for food baskets and for the JD Mentors scholarships.

I would like to thank all the board members of HLAJ Charities. This board has worked very hard to raise funds. This board is comprised of Martha Victoria-Diaz, Rossana Fernandez, Helen Gutierrez, Linda Perez, Beatriz Santiago and Daniel Trevino. I would also like to thank all the HLAJ committee heads, especially Claudia Castro co-chair of Latina Lawyers Committee (LLC), Ruben Chapa and Marlen Cortez Morris co-chairs of the law school committee and Federico Rodriguez chair of the judicial evaluations committee.

Thank you to all the board members of HLAJ. By working together the board has been able to sponsor many events. This board was comprised of Claudia Castro, Pedro Cervantes, Salvador Cicero, Martha Victoria- Diaz, Helen Gutierrez, Leopoldo Lastre, Alfredo Maldonado, Alejandro Menchaca, Cesar Orozco, Hon. Jesse Reyes, Federico Rodriguez and Beatriz Santiago.

Salvador Cicero, the incoming president, has many exciting plans for HLAJ for the upcoming year. The new board has already met to plan for the upcoming year. I hope that you all will continue to be active members. The Board looks forward to working with our membership.

Saludos,

Rosa Maria Silva

## Announcements



Congratulations to **Tristan Gunn** who recently graduated from DePaul University College of Law. Tristan was hooded by his mother **Carlina Tapia-Ruano**, and his father **Jeffrey Gunn**, both of whom also graduated from DePaul University College of Law.

Tristan will practice in the family firm, Tapia-Ruano & Gunn P.C., which specializes in immigration law, upon graduation. He also will extend his family's DePaul legacy of lawyers when he marries Stephanie Basanez, a 2008 College of Law graduate, this summer.

To read more about this DePaul legacy please go to <http://newsroom.depaul.edu/NewsReleases/showNews.aspx?NID=2343>



Congratulations to **Ruben Chapa** for receiving the **Aguila Award**. The Aguila award is a lifetime achievement award given out by HLAJ. He received this award at the HLSF/HLAJ Annual Scholarship and Awards Reception on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Ruben is a senior trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Solicitor. As a senior trial attorney he has litigated matters in federal district court and before administrative tribunals throughout the Midwest United States. The matters he has litigated include violations of numerous federal statutes, including those protecting employees' pensions and their safety and health. Mr. Chapa has obtained several judgments against numerous defendants in excess of \$60 million. Mr. Chapa graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts, double majoring in History and Spanish, in 1990. He received his Juris Doctor from DePaul University College of Law in 1993. Mr. Chapa has been a prominent leader in various civic and professional groups including the



American Bar Association, Chicago Bar Association, Chicago Bar Foundation, and Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois. Ruben has served as the President of HLA I. He is currently Co-chair for the law school committee.



Congratulations to **Federico M. Rodriguez** who received **HLAI's President's Award**.

This award is given to an HLA I board member who has shown exceptional dedication to HLA I. Federico received this award at the HLSF/HLA I Annual Scholarship and Awards Reception on May 19<sup>th</sup>. He received his J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law. Upon graduating he began as an associate with Lawrence H. Hyman & Associates, focusing on personal injury litigation and high profile criminal cases nationwide, in his last two years with that firm, he brought in and handled personal injury cases that grossed over 11 million dollars combined for the firm. He is currently the principal of Rodriguez Legal Group, LLC. He has obtained over 32 million dollars in judgments and settlements for his clients. He has handled many high profile cases, including two lawsuits against La Ley radio station (for their failure to award prizes to contestants arising out of their immigration status) and defamations claims against WGN News and another Spanish language television station. Some of his cases have been featured in the New York Times, The Sun Times, the Daily Herald, and the Law Bulletin. He has appeared on Telemundo, Univision, Television Azteca, NTN24 (broadcasted throughout the Americas) and Fox News' former show Hannity & Colmes. From 2002 to 2004, 2009-present he has served on the Board of HLA I. Through his efforts, HLA I was again admitted to the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screening, where he presently serves on the Executive Committee as Chair for HLA I.



Congratulations to **David Herrera** who received **HLA I's Community Service Award**. This

award is given to an HLA I member who has been dedicated to community service. David received this award at the at the HLSF/HLA I Annual Scholarship and Awards Reception on May 19<sup>th</sup>. He received his J.D/M.B.A. from the University Of Illinois College Of Law. While in law school he was the President of the Latino/a Law Students Association. After law school he worked in Santa Clara, California with the Intel Corporation's legal department. David returned to Illinois in 2000 and accepted a position with the office of the Cook County State's Attorney, where he has spent the last ten years climbing the ranks of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and has been assigned to the Felony Trial Division since 2008. David is responsible for the prosecution of felony offenses including violent crimes, sex crimes, and weapon and narcotic offenses. David has tried over 20 Jury Trials in Cook County and over 80 Bench Trials. He has also served as the President of the National Hispanic Prosecutors Association, member of the board of directors and judicial evaluations committee for the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois. He currently serves on the judicial evaluations committee for the Puerto Rican Bar Associations, the Board of Directors for the Latin American Police Association, and for the past four years David has headed the Hispanic Lawyers Association and Puerto Rican Bar Associations annual food basket Drive. David Resides in Chicago with his wife Maria and their daughter Isabella Marie.

Congratulations to the **HLSF Scholarship Recipients** **Victoria Carmona**, Loyola University School of Law **Veronica Cortez**, Chicago-Kent College of Law **Alberto Herrera**, Northwestern University School of Law **Martha Soto**, DePaul University College of Law Each student was awarded \$2,500.

Congratulations to **HLSF Fellowship Recipients** **Crystal Cortez**, Chicago-Kent College of Law **Perla Gonzalez**, DePaul University College of Law **Melissa Giacomara**, Chicago-Kent College of Law Crystal will be working at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office this summer. Perla will be working at the National Labor Relations Board (Region 13). Melissa will be working at the Cook County Public Defender's Office. Each student was awarded \$5000.

**\*\*\*HLA I invites notices of member's achievements. Please submit them to Salvador Cicero at [abogados.chicago2@gmail.com](mailto:abogados.chicago2@gmail.com)\*\*\***



## May Overview

**Sergio Acosta** organized for a group of University of Chicago law students to tour the federal courthouse. The students met with **Judge Guzman** in his chambers and then with **AUSA Tony Garcia**. This was a great experience for the students.

On May 5<sup>th</sup> HLAI and HLAIC cosponsored a **Cinco de Mayo fundraiser** with LAPA, NHPA and PRBA. The event was held at Fogata Village. This event helped raise money for the **food drive** that was held on **May 14<sup>th</sup>**. Members met to purchase food and then went to Casa Catalina to help stock the food pantry. A special thanks to David Herrera for helping organize this event.



On May 11<sup>th</sup>, the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) held its *Legislative Day and Capital Awards Dinner*. Legislative Day brought together attorneys with a strong interest in legislative issues important to the HNBA and the Hispanic community to advocate on Capitol Hill. HNBA members were grouped in teams and met with U.S. Senators, Representatives, and their staff to discuss comprehensive immigration reform, the DREAM Act, and the need for increased diversity on the federal bench. Elizabeth Ribbeck and Leopoldo Lastre, HLAI members, were present for this event.



**HLAI Members Sworn-In to the U.S. Supreme Court by Justice Sotomayor**  
On May 12<sup>th</sup>, HNBA members from around the country gathered at the Supreme Court of the United States for an exclusive swearing-in ceremony by **the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor**. Justice Sotomayor swore-in 45 HNBA members into the U.S. Supreme Court by motion of Diana Sen, HNBA President. The ceremony was followed by a private reception with Justice Sotomayor. Linda Perez, Leopoldo Lastre, Elizabeth Ribbeck and Beatriz Santiago took part in this event.



On **May 19<sup>th</sup>** HLSF and HLAI hosted their **Annual Scholarship and Awards Reception**. The event was well attended. \$20,000 in scholarships were awarded to law students.

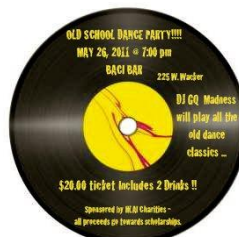
The event sponsors were Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg, Citibank and Winston & Strawn. The scholarship Sponsors were State Farm Insurance, Exelon, BP, Sidley Austin and Vedder Price.

Fellowship Partners were the Cook County Public Defender's Office, the Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez and the National Labor Relations Board-Region 13.

A special thanks goes out to the HLSF board members for coordinating this event. The Board consists of Chairman, Joseph J. Torres; Secretary, Christina Lopez-Nutzman; Treasurer, Olga Rojas; Trustees-Karina Ayala-Bermejo, Michael A. Carrillo, Pedro De Jesus, Jr., Elizabeth Granados-Perez, Daniel J. Hurtado, Martin Montes, Robert H. Muriel, Homero Tristan & Jaime Viteri Martin R. Castro, Chairman Emeritus Gery J. Chico, Life Trustee



To view more photos please go to <http://s1080.photobucket.com/albums/j328/Haralambidis/HLAI%202011%20Scholarship/>



On **May 26<sup>th</sup>** HLAIC hosted an **Old School Fundraiser**. The event took place at Baci Café. Many members turned out for a night of fun and dancing. Great raffle items were donated for this event. The monies raised will go towards the JD Mentors program. A special thanks goes out to Rossana Fernandez for organizing this event.



## ROAD TO THE ROBE

HLAI and PRBA will host a Road to the Robe talk. The event will be held on June 16, 2011 from 4-6 p.m. at the Union League Club of Chicago, Conference Room 820. Please RSVP to Edwin Reyes at [ereyes@briskmanlaw.com](mailto:ereyes@briskmanlaw.com)



## CATASTROPHIC INJURIES AFFECTING LATINOS AND OTHER MINORITIES: A Panel Discussion Offering Perspectives By Chicago's Top Business And Legal Leaders.

### SAVE THE DATE

- Today, one in four Americans is a member of a racial or ethnic minority group; by 2070, one in two Americans will be.
- One-third of Latinos have difficulty communicating with their doctor and many have trouble reading and understanding written information in their doctors' offices, omit medications, miss office appointments and rely on hospital emergency department for their general healthcare.
- The lack of insurance has proven to be the biggest predictor of poor outcomes; since minorities are more likely than whites to be uninsured they are more likely to be affected by traumatic injury.

This presentation will discuss the role of the guardian and trends in litigation and alternative dispute resolution.

**Tuesday, June 28, 2011**

5:00 p.m. - Registration and Networking  
5:30 p.m. - Program

**Northern Trust**

50 South La Salle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603

Come and learn how these challenges affect all of us and legal considerations for effective resolution.

CLE credit will be offered.

BURKE WISE MORRISSEY & KAVENY

**HINSHAW**  
A CULBERTSON LLP



## Upcoming Events/Save the Dates! June Events

The Hispanic Lawyer's Association requests the pleasure of your company at its **15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**. Please join us as Telemundo's **Tsi-tski-ki Felix** serves as mistress of ceremonies and the Honorable **Judge Manuel Barbosa** swears in the incoming HLAI Board. The JD Mentors program will be awarding scholarships.

The event will be held on Wednesday, June 8, 2011 from 5:30 PM-7:30 PM at the Chicago Bar Association Building (HLAI's home), at 325 S. Plymouth Court, Chicago, IL 60604.

Reception to follow, Mariachis and open bar will be provided. Kindly R.S.V.P. to [abogados.chicago2@gmail.com](mailto:abogados.chicago2@gmail.com)

The 2011-2012 HLAI Board will include

President-Salvador Cicero

President Elect- Federico M. Rodriguez

Immediate Past President- Rosa Maria Silva

Communications Secretary - Elizabeth Ribbeck

Treasurer - Alejandro Menchaca

Membership Secretary - Spiridoula (Litza) Mavrothalasitis

Recording Secretary - Alfredo Maldonado

Board of Directors--

Sergio Acosta, Claudia Castro, Damian Ortiz, Cesar Orozco, Ernesto Palomo and Beatriz Santiago

## July/August Events



Batter Up! Please join HLAIC out for a night of baseball at Cellular One. Come watch the Chicago White Sox vs. the Cleveland Indians at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35.00. Proceeds will go to fund the charitable missions of HLAIC. For tickets please contact Linda Perez at [linda\\_perez@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linda_perez@sbcglobal.net)

**OFFICERS:** Rosa Maria Silva--President, Salvador Cicero--President-Elect, Leopoldo Lastre--Immediate Past President, Helen Gutierrez--Communications Secretary, Pedro Cervantes--Membership Secretary, Alfredo Maldonado--Recording Secretary, Alejandro Menchaca--Treasurer.  
**BOARD MEMBERS:** Martha Victoria-Díaz, Hon. Jesse Reyes, Federico Rodriguez, Beatriz Santiago, Cesar Orozco, Claudia Castro. *Noticias* Editor: Claudia Castro & Rosa Maria Silva HLAI Tel. No. 312-554-2045, website [www.hlai.org](http://www.hlai.org).



## Volunteer/Misc. Opportunities

Illinois will no longer publish its decision. These will be posted via web only. Amended Supreme Court Rules 6 & 23 posted to the IL Courts website 5/31/11:

[http://www.state.il.us/court/SupremeCourt/Rules/Amend/2011/053111\\_Rule\\_Amendments.pdf](http://www.state.il.us/court/SupremeCourt/Rules/Amend/2011/053111_Rule_Amendments.pdf)

Judge Jorge L. Alonso has started a tutoring program at Kanoon Magnet School, located in the Little Village neighborhood. The program began this April. The program is looking for people who can commit at least once a month to the program. Many HLA I members are part of this group. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Alfredo Maldonado at [maldonado1998@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maldonado1998@sbcglobal.net)



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)

## Employment Opportunities

The Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission is currently accepting applications for full-time litigation counsel positions for both its Chicago and Springfield offices. Responsibilities will include investigating complaints of professional misconduct by attorneys, facilitating attorney compliance with rules of professional conduct and prosecuting formal disciplinary complaints. Excellent benefits. Send letter identifying desired location (Chicago or Springfield), resume and writing sample to:

Eva Tramutolo Director, Human Resources and Administrative Services , Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission One Prudential Plaza 130 East Randolph Drive, Suite 1500 Chicago, Illinois 60601

**Quarles & Brady** seeks a contract attorney with experience in pharmacy and/or regulatory law to become a member of a dynamic team in its Phoenix office. Attorney will complete various projects relating to pharmacy law in the state and federal regulatory environment. Projects will include legal research related to state and federal regulatory compliance with a focus on pharmacy law issues; legal analysis and development of legal advice with respect to health care regulatory compliance; interpreting regulations and statutes; and drafting responses to compliance inquiries and disciplinary notices. Excellent research, writing and analysis skills required. Candidate must be able to work independently. Compensation depends on experience. Active Arizona licensure required. Hours are flexible and not guaranteed, but availability of at least 25 hours a week is required. Candidates with relevant experience strongly preferred.

Qualified applicants should send/e-mail/fax a cover letter and resume to:

Lauren Schneider

Recruiting Specialist

[lauren.schneider@quarles.com](mailto:lauren.schneider@quarles.com)

## Membership Benefits

**HLAI is participating in the American Airlines Business ExtrAA Travel Awards Program** to earn travel rewards for travel to the HNBE 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 AmericanConnectio®