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¡AHORA!

**14th Annual National Latina/o Law Students
Association Conference**

New Haven, Connecticut

September 30th – October 2nd, 2010

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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BIENVENIDOS!

Welcome to Ahora.

The Latina/o community has reached unprecedented levels of success in recent years and our political voice is finally becoming amplified. The appointment of the first Latina to the Supreme Court is but one of many dramatic examples of our rapid progress into the political mainstream, and has punctured the thin stereotype of our culture that has persisted in social consciousness. We are making a difference in our legal system and bringing change to our society.

While Ahora is a time to celebrate these successes, it is also the time to mold them into something greater. This is a time to raise expectations and become not just exceptions to the rule, but the rule that arises from the exceptions.

Ahora should remind us all that the foundations laid by our predecessors will be swept away if we do not persevere in tackling the challenges that our communities continue to face. Everything from immigration to affirmative action to workers' rights to redistricting to education will require a sustained and vigorous level of engagement from talented lawyers. We must maintain our commitment to activism and advocacy if we are to achieve a just and progressive resolution to the issues that are of such importance to our communities.

Ahora is not the time to become complacent. Ahora is the time to act.



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, September 30th

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Moot Court Competition
Omni Hotel

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Early Welcome Drinks
Gerónimo, 271 Crown Street

Friday, October 1st

9:00 am to 10:00 am

Moot Court Finals
Yale Law School Auditorium

10:00 am to 11:45 am

Registration & Breakfast
Yale Law School Dining Hall

Rare Book Exhibit: *Mexico Celebrates its Bicentennial: 1810 – 2010*
Teresa Miguel & Michael Widener
Level L2, Lillian Goldman Law Library

12:00 pm to 12:45 pm

Keynote Address: Then and Now: Traditions, Challenges and Opportunities
Gerald Torres
Yale Law School Auditorium

1:00 pm to 2:15 pm

Lunch Panel: An Ode to Public Service
Drew Days, Vice Admiral James W. Houck, Fred Rivera, Toni Smith-Rosario
Room 127

2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Detained: From Guantánamo to El Paso
Hon. Cecilia Altonaga, Walter B. Ruiz, Jr., Michael Wishnie; Moderator: Hon. José Cabranes
Yale Law School Auditorium

ID Please: The Current State of Immigration Law
George Gascón, Cristina Rodríguez, Leon Rodríguez
Room 127

4:15 pm to 5:45 pm

Pursuing A Career in Legal Academia

Sarah C. Bronin, Cristina Rodríguez, Gerardo Vildostegui
Room 120

The Electoral Marketplace and the Latino Vote

Joaquin Avila, Nina Perales, Heather Gerken
Room 127

6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

Community Service Project: Building Bookshelves for Kids

Dwight Hall Library, 67 High Street

8:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Drinks & Hors D'Oeuvres

Yale Law School Dining Hall

Yale Law School Dining Hall

Saturday, October 2nd

9:00 am to 11:30 am

NLLSA Board Elections

Breakfast will be served.
Room 127

11:45 am to 1:00 pm

Lunch Panel: A Guide to Success in Private Practice

Hector Gallegos, Manuel G. Berrelez, Natalia Martin
Room 127

1:15 pm to 2:45 pm

Ahora: The Urgency of Now

Hon. Eva Guzman, Rachel Moran, Thomas A. Saenz, Gerald Torres
Yale Law School Auditorium

Educating Minorities and Other Economically Disadvantaged Populations

Carlos Barrezueta, Brenda Montes
Room 120

3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Employment Expo

Yale Law School Dining Hall

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Banquet

Yale University Commons, 168 Grove Street

11:00 pm to 1:00 am

After-Party

GPSCY, 204 York Street

PANELS

Friday, October 1st from 1:00 pm to 2:15 pm (Lunch Served)



Panelists: Drew Days
Vice Admiral James W. Houck
Fred Rivera
Toni Smith-Rosario

The conference theme, AHORA, is meant to challenge this generation of Latino lawyers to rise and meet the challenges of our communities and country. In that spirit, we celebrate careers in public service. This panel will share the perspectives of some of the country's most accomplished public servants as well as provide advice on how to make the move from private practice to public service and vice versa.

Drew Days, Professor, Yale Law School. Before joining the Yale Law School faculty in 1981, Professor Days served as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under President Carter. In 1988, he founded the Orville H. Schell Jr. Center for Human Rights at Yale, serving as its director. In 1993, President Clinton appointed Professor Days as Solicitor General of the United States, where he served until 1996. Professor Days is an honors graduate from Hamilton College and received his LL.B. degree from Yale.

Vice Admiral James W. Houck, Judge Advocate General, United States Navy. As the judge advocate general, Vice Admiral Houck is the principal military legal counsel to the secretary of the Navy and chief of Naval Operations. He leads the attorneys, enlisted legalmen, and civilian employees of the worldwide Navy JAG Corps community. Vice Admiral Houck's other assignments include service in the Office of the Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs, and the Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Navy.

Fred Rivera, Partner, Perkins Coie. Mr. Rivera is the co-chair of the Financial Services Litigation & Investigations practice at Perkins Coie. An expert on mortgage fraud, fair housing and fair lending claims, Mr. Rivera began his career as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he served in the Honors Program. He returned to public service from 2006-2008 as the head of Internal Investigations at Fannie Mae. Mr. Rivera is a graduate of California State University, Northridge, and Gonzaga University School of Law.

Toni M. Smith-Rosario, Senior Assistant - Connecticut State's Attorney. Ms. Smith-Rosario is a graduate of Harvard University and Yale Law School, where she served as co-chair of LLSA. After working in private practice, she clerked in Connecticut with Judge Robert N. Chatigny of the District Court and Justice Richard N. Palmer of the Supreme Court. A founding member of the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association, she co-chairs its student outreach programs. She has worked as an appellate prosecutor since 1997.

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Friday, October 1st from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Panelists: Hon. Cecilia Altonaga
Walter B. Ruiz Jr.
Michael Wishnie
Moderator: Hon. José Cabranes

This panel aims to integrate ongoing discussions about national security detainees and border issues. We hope that our panelists will share their experiences in helping us to answer the following questions: What rights should we afford citizen and noncitizen detainees on American soil? What rights are available to those detained on foreign soil controlled by the United States military? But most importantly, we would like to tackle the following: what should the law be and what is the role of law students and young lawyers in facilitating that change?

Hon. Cecilia Altonaga, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida. Judge Altonaga became the first Cuban-American to serve as a federal judge when President Bush appointed her in 2003. Notably, Judge Altonaga presided over the trial of Charles McArthur Emmanuel, son of Liberian dictator Charles Taylor and the first American to be charged for participating in torture overseas. Judge Altonaga is a graduate of Florida International University and Yale Law School.

Walter B. Ruiz, Jr., Office of Military Commissions Defense, Navy. Mr. Ruiz currently represents Mustafa Al Hawsawi, one of the alleged 9-11 conspirators, and has previously represented Canadian child soldier Omar Khadr. In his civilian capacity, Mr. Ruiz is an Assistant Federal Public Defender. He received his undergraduate degree in Business from the University of Florida and his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law.

Michael Wishnie, Professor, Yale Law School. Professor Wishnie's teaching, scholarship, and law practice have focused on immigration, labor and employment, habeas corpus, civil rights, and administrative law. Previously, he was a Skadden Fellow at the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project; a law clerk to Judge H. Lee Sarokin of the District Court of New Jersey and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit; and a clerk to Justice Harry A. Blackmun, retired, working in the chambers of Justice Stephen G. Breyer. Professor Wishnie is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School.

Hon. José Cabranes, U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit. Judge Cabranes will be the recipient of this year's NLLSA

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Lifetime Achievement Award. President Carter made Judge Cabranes the first Puerto Rican appointed to the federal bench. He served as a United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut for fifteen years and was serving as Chief Judge of that court when President Bill Clinton appointed him to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Cabranes was a Kellett Research Fellow of Columbia College at the University of Cambridge (Queens' College, 1965-1967). He is a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, of which he later served as



Friday, October 1st from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Panelists: George Gascón
 Cristina Rodríguez
 Leon Rodríguez

Immigration has once again taken center stage because of the ongoing events in Arizona. We would like to use SB1070 as a starting point to discuss the current state of immigration law. What are the issues that require immediate attention? How can law students and young lawyers get involved in tackling urgent issues and crafting a long-term strategy?

George Gascón, Police Chief, City of San Francisco. Chief Gascón began his career as an officer for the Los Angeles Police Department. He eventually rose to become the Assistant Chief of the LAPD, where he oversaw all of the Department's patrol and detective functions. Before his appointment in San Francisco, he served as Police Chief in Mesa, Arizona. He has also helped train police departments in El Salvador and Colombia. Mr. Gascón is a graduate of California State University, Longbeach, and Western State University College of Law.

Cristina Rodríguez, Professor, New York University School of Law. Professor Rodríguez has written extensively on how immigration affects society and culture, as well as the legal and political strategies different societies adopt to absorb immigrant populations. Professor Rodríguez earned her B.A. from Yale College, her M.Litt. from Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, and her J.D. from Yale Law School, where she was the Articles Editor for the *Yale Law Journal*. After law school, Professor Rodríguez clerked for the Honorable David S. Tatel of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals and then for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Leon Rodriguez, Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. Mr. Rodriguez is the Deputy Assistant Attorney General and Chief of Staff for Thomas Perez, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. Mr. Rodriguez served in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh as chief of the White Collar Crimes Section, then as First Assistant U.S. Attorney. Mr. Rodriguez is a graduate of Brown University and Boston College School of Law.

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NEW YORK • LONDON

Friday, October 1st from 4:15 pm to 5:45 pm

Panelists: Sarah C. Bronin
Cristina Rodríguez
Gerardo Vildostegui

Yale LLSA has made faculty diversity its signature issue. As an organization, it is tirelessly engaged in coordinating with the Law School to ensure that a Latino voice is present on the faculty. This panel will explore the perspectives of Latinos in academia and how students and law school administrations can collaborate to find ways to hire and retain them. The panel will also consider LatCrit's role in the legal academy.

Sara C. Bronin, Associate Professor - University of Connecticut School of Law. Professor Bronin researches and publishes in property, land use, historic preservation, green building, and renewable energy law. At UConn, she co-directs the Center for Energy & Environmental Law and coordinates the Gallivan Conferences. She also serves as President of the CT Hispanic Bar and as a lead attorney and development strategist for 360 State Street, a mixed-use, green development in downtown New Haven. She graduated from the U.T. School of Architecture, Oxford (as a Rhodes Scholar), and Yale Law School.

Cristina Rodríguez, Professor, New York University School of Law. Professor Rodríguez has written extensively on how immigration affects society and culture, as well as the legal and political strategies different societies adopt to absorb immigrant populations. Professor Rodríguez earned her B.A. from Yale College, her M.Litt. from Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, and her J.D. from Yale Law School, where she was the Articles Editor for the *Yale Law Journal*. After law school, Professor Rodríguez clerked for the Honorable David S. Tatel of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals and then for Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Gerardo Vildostegui, Professor, Rutgers School of Law. Professor Vildostegui received his J.D. from Yale Law School in 2000, where he was the first Latino Editor-in-Chief of the *Yale Law Journal*. His areas of interest include moral and political philosophy, public international law, jurisprudence, constitutional law, and the history of philosophy. He is currently working on two main projects: a study of the relationship between history and morality, and an analysis of the Puerto Rican status question. He received his B.A. from Yale College.

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Friday, October 1st from 4:15 pm to 5:45 pm

Panelists: Joaquin Avila
Nina Perales
Heather Gerken

The Latino vote is quickly becoming the most sought-after electoral prize in the country. Much to the chagrin of national politicians, the diversity of viewpoints within Latino communities makes courting their votes an inexact science. This panel will discuss the growing influence of the Latino electorate and its short- and long-term implications for American politics. What issues will come to the fore as a result? What will change? How can law students and young lawyers get involved in the issues surrounding the

Latino vote?

Joaquin Avila, Professor, Seattle University School of Law. Professor Avila is a nationally-recognized expert on voting rights, and has successfully argued two cases before the U.S. Supreme Court regarding special provisions in the Voting Rights Act. A graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, he now directs the National Voting Rights Advocacy Initiative at Seattle University.

Nina Perales, Southwest Regional Counsel, MALDEF. Ms. Perales directs MALDEF's litigation, advocacy, and public

education in nine southern and western states. Ms. Perales specializes in voting rights litigation, including redistricting and vote dilution challenges. In 2006, Ms. Perales successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in *LULAC v. Perry*, a Latino vote-dilution challenge to the 2003 Texas congressional redistricting plan. Ms. Perales is a graduate of Brown University and Columbia Law School.

Heather Gerken, Professor, Yale Law School. Heather Gerken is the J. Skelly Wright Professor of Law at Yale Law School where she is one of the country's leading experts on voting rights and election law. Professor Gerken graduated from Princeton University and the University of Michigan Law School. She clerked for Judge Stephen Reinhardt of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and for Justice



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Saturday, October 2nd from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm (Lunch Served)

Panelists: Hector Gallegos
Manuel G. Berrelez
Natalia Martin

Latinos continue to be underrepresented in the leadership of major law firms. There are a host of reasons for this, which young lawyers must be prepared to understand and address. This panel will provide guidance on tackling a successful partnership run.

Hector Gallegos, Partner, Morrison Foerster. Mr. Gallegos represents foreign and domestic companies in patent litigation in U.S. District Courts and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, as well as before the International Trade Commission. Mr. Gallegos also maintains an active pro bono practice and was awarded the Pro Bono Civil Liberties Award by the ACLU Foundation of Southern California in 2000. Mr. Gallegos is a graduate of UCLA Law School.

Manuel G. Berrelez, Associate, Vinson & Elkins. Mr. Berrelez is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School, where he served as Co-Chair of the Yale LLSA. A former law clerk to Judge Raymond C. Fisher of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Mr. Berrelez now practices in Dallas, representing clients nationwide in complex commercial litigation in both the federal and state courts.

Natalia Martín, Director of Diversity - Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. Natalia Martín is a former Associate Dean at Yale Law School, and is a co-founder of a series of networking breakfasts for Latina attorneys in New York City called "Cafecitos." She is a member of the New York City Bar's Committee to Enhance Diversity in the Profession and the New York State Bar Association's Minorities in the Profession Committee. Natalia is a graduate of Harvard University and Yale Law School.



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Ahora: The Urgency of Now

Saturday, October 2nd from 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm

Panelists: Hon. Eva Guzman
 Rachel Moran
 Thomas A. Saenz
 Gerald Torres

The Conference theme, AHORA, acknowledges that we must confront the challenges our communities face if we wish to preserve and build on our achievements. These panelists are members of a very unique generation, one that broke countless barriers, while experiencing tremendous hardship. How far have we come since then? What must our generation do to build on their work? How can we unite various sectors of the legal profession to understand and tackle these urgent issues?

Hon. Eva Guzman, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Texas. Justice Guzman has served for over ten years on the Texas bench at every level. She was appointed to the Supreme Court of Texas in the fall of 2009 and stands for reelection this year. Justice Guzman is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Houston Law Center and was recently honored by Latino Leaders magazine as one of the 101 Most Influential People in the Latino Community. Justice Guzman is a graduate of the University of Houston and South Texas College of Law.

Rachel Moran, Dean, UCLA Law School. Dean Moran will be this year's recipient of NLLSA's Excellence in Leadership Award. When she starts her deanship on October 15th, Dean Moran will become the first Latina dean of a top-20 law school. She has had a distinguished career as a faculty member of Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law since 1983, President of the Association of American Law Schools, Chair of the Chicano/Latino Policy Project (now the Center for Latino Policy Research) and as Director of the Institute for the Study of Social Change. Dean Moran is a graduate of Stanford University and Yale Law School. She clerked for the Honorable Wilfred Feinberg, then the Chief Judge of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Thomas A. Saenz, President and General Counsel - MALDEF. Mr. Saenz joined MALDEF as a staff attorney in 1993; he became Los Angeles Regional Counsel in 1996, National Senior Counsel in 2000, and Vice President of Litigation in 2001. At MALDEF, Saenz served as lead counsel in numerous civil rights cases, involving such issues as educational equity, employment discrimination, immigrants' rights, day laborer rights, and voting rights. Mr. Saenz is a graduate of Yale University and Yale Law School. Mr. Saenz clerked for the Honorable Harry L. Hupp of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, and for the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Gerald Torres, Professor - University of Texas, Austin. Professor Torres is former president of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), and a leading figure in critical race theory, and environmental law. During the Clinton Administration Professor served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, and as counsel to then-U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. He has been a visiting professor at both Harvard and Stanford law schools. A graduate of Stanford University and Yale Law School, Professor Torres was the recipient of the 2010 Yale Latino Law Students Association Public Service Award.

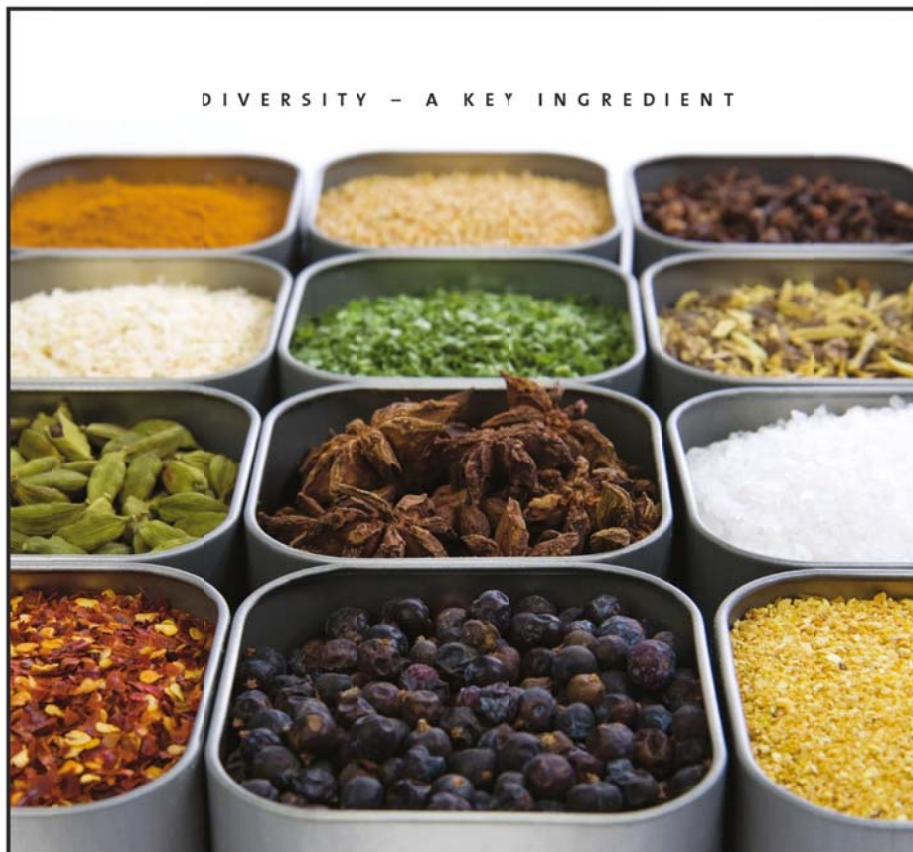
Saturday, October 2nd from 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm

Panelists: Carlos Barrezueta
Brenda Montes

Minorities are projected to become a majority of the United States population by 2050. Yet almost 40 percent of Hispanic students fail to graduate from high school on time and only 12 percent will earn a B.A.; only 17 percent of African American students will earn a B.A. This panel will touch on issues such as access to education, the role of

colleges in community development, and disparities in resource allocation. What are the consequences of an undereducated minority population? What are the costs for the U.S. economy? Why are traditional colleges failing to provide access to educational opportunities for minority students? If minority students follow non-traditional study patterns, why do our traditional models fail to accommodate them? What is the role of community and public colleges in closing the achievement gap? What should be the role of highly selective institutions?

Carlos Barrezueta, Executive Director - Center for Latin American and Caribbean Initiatives at Miami Dade College. Carlos has provided political commentary and analysis for the national newscast Mega News Nocturno. His work included analysis of elections and major political events in Latin America, in addition to U.S. and inter-American policy. Prior to Mega News, Carlos was a Dean's Fellow at Yale Law School, where he coordinated the launch of the new three-year JD-MBA program. Before working in academia, Carlos worked in the corporate department of Davis



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Perkins Coie is proud to sponsor the 2010 National Latino Law Student Association Conference. We believe an investment in the diversity pipeline is fundamental for the future of the legal profession. We are pleased to support an organization that is dedicated to strengthening the national network of Latino law students and ensuring their continued success in legal academia, practice and public service. At Perkins Coie, we believe diversity is a key ingredient of success.

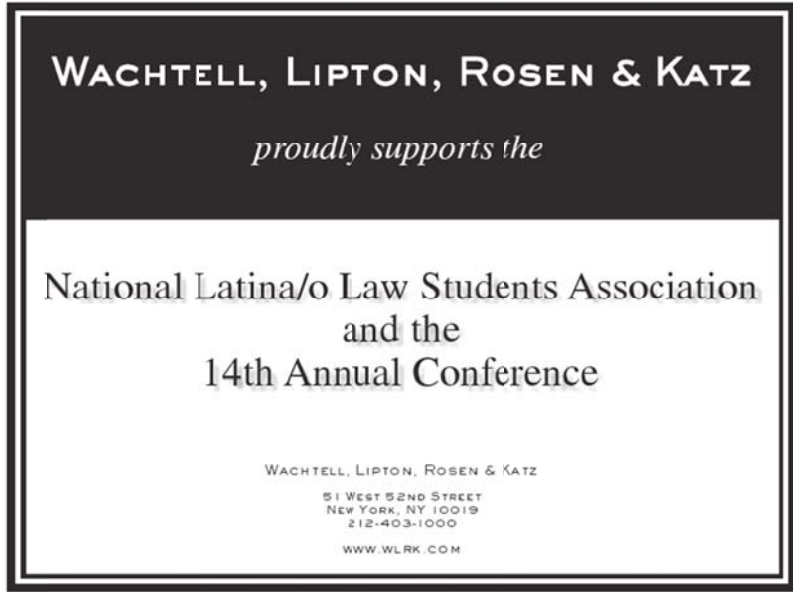
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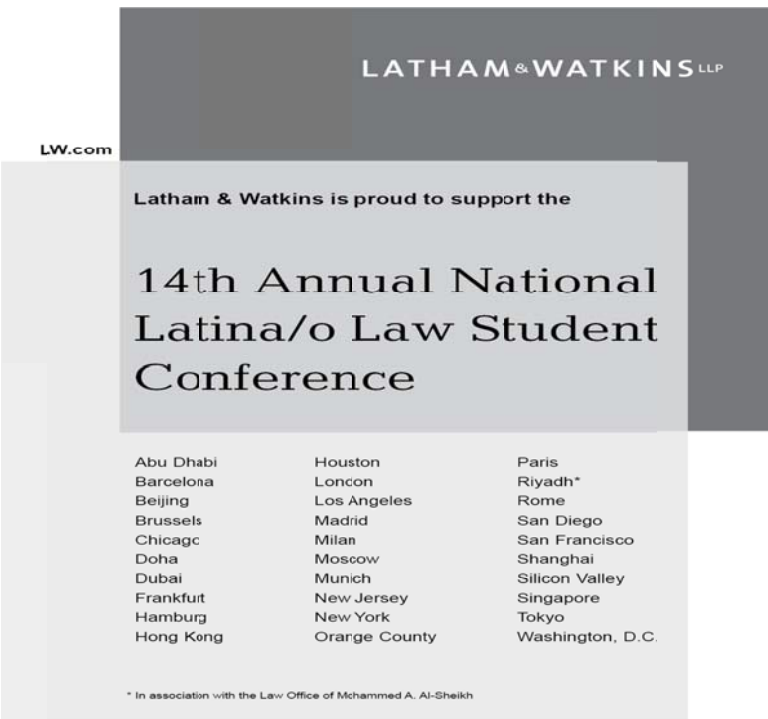
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AWARDS

Hon. José Cabranes

Judge Cabranes sits on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. As the first Puerto Rican appointed to the federal bench, he served as a United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut for fifteen years and was serving as Chief Judge of that court when President Bill Clinton appointed him to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Cabranes was a Kellett Research Fellow of Columbia College at the University of Cambridge (Queens' College, 1965-1967). He is a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, of which he later served as Chairman. Judge Cabranes is a graduate of Columbia University and Yale Law School.



Dean Rachel Moran



Rachel Moran is the incoming dean at UCLA Law School. When she starts her deanship on October 15th, Dean Moran will become the first Latina dean of a top-20 law school. She has had a distinguished career as a faculty member of Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law since 1983; President of the Association of American Law Schools; Chair of the Chicano/Latino Policy Project (now the Center for Latino Policy Research) and as Director of the Institute for the Study of Social Change. Dean Moran is a graduate of Stanford University and Yale Law School. She clerked for the Honorable Wilfred Feinberg, then the Chief Judge of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

MOOT COURT PARTICIPANTS

Boston College Law School

Jessica L. Cassel
Yliana Johansen
Mario Christian Lozada
Nicholas Ramirez

Columbia University School of Law

Roxana Mondragon
David Morales
Priscilla Orta-Wenner
Nick Rodriguez
Briza Sanchez

Chicago-Kent College of Law

Katherine G. Cisneros
Freddy Fonseca
Jessenica Vazcones-Yagual

Northern Illinois University College of Law

Daniel Becerra
Omar A. Salguero
Gladys Proa Santana

Northwestern University School of Law

Amanda Barrera
Kelsey Vidaillet

Southwestern Law School

Alex Barreno
Ron Miranda
Leslie Reyes
Antwain Wall

Texas Tech University School of Law

Shmyla Alam
Ricardo Bonilla
Austin Pennington

Thomas Jefferson School of Law

Erica Gonzales
Adriana Maldonado

University of California Davis School of Law

Joana Cuevas
Chris Magana
Denise Mendez

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Estella Cisneros
Alex Fenner
Michael A. Formichelli
Crystal Robles

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DINNER PROGRAM

7:00 pm	Cocktail Hour
8:00 pm	Dinner Served
8:40 pm	Introduction and Presentation of the 2010-2011 NLLSA Board
9:00 pm	Presentation of NLLSA Excellence in Leadership Award to Dean Rachel Moran
9:15 pm	Moot Court Awards
9:20 pm	Presentation of NLLSA Lifetime Achievement Award to Hon. José Cabranes
9:35 pm	Closing Remarks

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