

## Long Island Hispanic Bar Association

Annual Scholarship and Installation Dinner

20th Year Celebration

Thursday, September 30th, 2021

CA special thank you to all of our dedicated Tudges, CAttorneys, Members and Guests. You are the pillars of our organization.

Sincerely, Long Island Hispanic Bar Association



#### **OUR MISSION**

Since its inception in 2001, the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association (LIHBA) has dedicated itself to promoting and fostering the advancement of the Long Island Hispanic legal profession as well as the Hispanic community, as a whole.

Over the years the LIHBA has increased its outreach and involvement in the Hispanic Community. The LIHBA has conducted free community education seminars, provided continuing legal education programs, networking events with members of the government and the judiciary and developed a referral hotline and has worked with other advocacy groups and government officials to address some of the systemic problems encountered by Hispanics on Long Island. The LIHBA also provides an outstanding paid internship program to law school students and most recently will be giving substantial scholarships to deserving students.

# Thank you to all who helped make our 2021 Scholarship and Installation Gala a success!

Installation Committee chairs Maribel Gomez, Esq. Liza Milgrim-Reyes, Esq.

Volunteers:

Ramon Cabrera

Alexa Moreno

Nicole Purdee

Ciara Villalona

Jacqueline Carranza

Elizabeth Devivo

Leslie Contreras

Katherine Irwin

Priscilla Lozada

Daniel Morote

Lillian Mosley

Journal Chair Nicole Purdee

#### **PROGRAM**

Welcome and Introduction of Distinguished Guests \*Frank Valverde, Esq. Pledge of Allegiance \*Gianna Crespo, Esq. \*Pastor Garcia Invocation Presentation of Gift to Outgoing President \*Veronica Renta Irwin, Esq. \*Deanne M. Caputo, Esq. \*Frank Torres, Esq. \*George Siberon Acceptance and Speech \*Liza Milgrim-Reyes, Esq. \*Joaquin Lopez, Esq. Award recipient introduction \*Jacqueline Franco **Community Hero Award** Award recipient introduction \*Oscar Michelen, Esq. \*Sylvia Pastor-Finkelstein **Community Hero Award** Award recipient introduction \* Liza Milgrim-Reyes, Esq. **Community Hero Award** \*George Siberon Introduction of Keynote Speaker \*Hon. Helen Voutsinas Keynote Address \*Hon. Hector LaSalle Introduction of Officers and Directors \*Veronica Renta Irwin, Esq. \*Senator Anna Kaplan Installation of Officers and Directors Introduction of President \*Hon. Sharon M.J. Gianelli Installation of President \*Senator Anna Kaplan President's Address \*Veronica Renta Irwin, Esq. \*Liza Milgrim-Reyes, Esq. Introduction of Scholarships Introduction of Scholarship Winner \* Hon. Philip Goglas **Scholarship Winner** \*Thania Riyanto \* Frank Torres, Esq. Introduction of Scholarship Winner **Scholarship Winner** \*Jonathan Weiss \*Nicole Purdee Introduction of Scholarship Winner \* Cynthia Vargas, Esq. **Scholarship Winner** \*Jasmine Ann Vega \*Jacqueline Carranza \*Leslie R. Contreras Closing Remarks \* Frank Valverde, Esq.









# Long Island Hispanic Bar Association

#### 2021-2022 E-Board

#### **Officers**

President- Veronica Renta Irwin, Esq.

President- Elect- Oscar Michelen, Esq.

Vice President (Community Relations)- Joaquin Lopez, Esq.

Vice President (Membership)- Gianna Crespo, Esq.

Vice President (Programs)- Pallvi Babbar, Esq.

Treasurer- Maribel Gomez, Esq.

Secretary - Brian Vasquez, Esq.

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Candace Gomez, Esq.

Isabel Mira, Esq.

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Hon. Helen Voutsinas

#### **Immediate Past President**

Liza Milgrim-Reyes, Esq.







# Long Island Hispanic Bar Association

#### Past Presidents

Liza Milgrim- Reyes, Esq.
Honorable Linda Mejias
Honorable Helen Voutsinas
Frank Torres, Esq.
Dr. Roy Aranda, Esq.
Frank Valverde, Esq.
Ray Negron, Esq.
Richard Montes, Esq.
Dave Mejias, Esq.
Cynthia Vargas, Esq.
Honorable Hector LaSalle
Luis Pagan, Esq.
Honorable Philip Goglas

We thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association.



The Long Island Hispanic Bar Association would like to thank our Past-President,

The Honorable Hector D. Lasalle

for being the Keynote speaker at our 2021 Installation and Scholarship Gala

# Keynote speaker

# Honorable Hector D. LaSalle

Presiding Justice of the
New York Supreme Court
Appellate Division,
Second Judicial Department



Honorable Hector D. LaSalle is the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, appointed to by Governor Cuomo on May 25, 2021. Prior to his appointment as Presiding Justice, Justice LaSalle served as an Associate Justice of the Court from 2014 to 2021. Justice LaSalle served as an Associate Justice in the 9th and 10th Judicial Districts of the New York State Appellate Term from 2012 to 2014. From 2008 to 2014, Justice LaSalle also served as a Justice in the 10th Judicial District, Supreme Court.

From 2001 to 2008 and 1993 to 1998, Justice LaSalle worked in the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office as Deputy Bureau Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau, Head of Anti-Gang Unit, and an Assistant District Attorney. He served as Assistant Attorney General in the New York State Attorney General's Office from 1999 to 2001. Justice LaSalle was an Associate at Ruskin, Moscou, Faltischeck, P.C. from 1998 to 1999. Justice LaSalle received his B.A. in Political Science from the Pennsylvania State University and a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School.

# Long Island Hispanic Bar (Association presents the

Community Hero Award to Sylvia Pastor Finklestein



Silvia Pastor Finkelstein is an Assistant District Attorney and Director of the Office of Immigrant Affairs at the Nassau County District Attorney's Office.

Ms. Finkelstein joined the Special Victims Bureau in 2001 and spent several years trying cases involving felony sex crimes and domestic violence. In 2007 she became Chief of the Child Abuse Unit and led the interdisciplinary team that investigated felony sexual crimes and assaults committed against children. She tried many cases where the victims were children under 13 years old, who had been subjected to severe physical and/or sexual abuse.

In January 2012, Ms. Finkelstein was named Deputy Bureau Chief of the Narcotics & Gang Bureau and Chief of the Prescription Drug Unit. In 2015 she was promoted to Director of the Office of Immigrant Affairs.

In her current position, Ms. Finkelstein coordinates the investigation and prosecution of crimes that target immigrants as victims and advices the District Attorney's Office and the community on matters where criminal law and immigration law intersect. She also develops and leads the Office of Immigrant Affairs' extensive outreach program and oversees the U-Visa and T-Visa certification process for the Nassau County District Attorney's Office. She chairs the Hispanic-Latino Advisory Council to the District Attorney and the Faith Leaders Council. On the DA's behalf, she is spearheading the Pathways Project, a gang prevention and support program for newly arrived immigrant students at the Hempstead Middle School and the Westbury Middle School.

Ms. Finkelstein is a NYPTI (New York Prosecutors Training Institute) lecturer and is a member of the PINY (Protecting Immigrant New Yorkers) task force. She is a founding member of the New York State District Attorneys League for Immigrant Affairs (DALIA) and its past president.

# Long Island Hispanic Bar (Association presents the

Community Hero Award to

to Tacqueline Franco



Jacqueline R. Franco helps businesses and people to grow inside-out contributing to the community and economic development by counseling, building professional networks, and developing a variety of projects and events. She is a bilingual-business advisor, specializing in marketing and the Hispanic market for Stony Brook University-SBDC, and she is the founder of Hub Direction USA. Her education started with a degree in Architecture & Engineer Drafting and Design from the Academia Superior de Artes in Medellin, Colombia. This knowledge and skills were enhanced in the other industries where she entered and that drove her to continue her studies by earning post-graduate degrees in both Management and Marketing from EAFIT University in Colombia, where she was certified as a management consultant. She is also a New York State Certified Business Advisor, and recently received a certificate from Harvard University in Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies.

Jacqueline has over 20 years of remarkable experience in management, project development, sales management, marketing, and process improvement in the private, cooperative and public sectors, in different industries such as finance, health, insurance, oil, and real estate. Her continuous education, her extensive experience, and her passion to serve, which started at a young age, have been utilized to create numerous ways to help people who want to make their businesses grow and have a better quality of life.

She establishes and cultivates strong partnerships with entrepreneurs, professional people and different types of organizations to work together, promoting a collaborative spirit and an interest in helping others. Thousands of people have been assisted through one-on-one counseling, and many more have participated in the training programs and events she has conducted, which have had a great impact on their well-being and development. This work makes her feel very satisfied and eager to continue studying and striving to build a stronger and more competitive Hispanic community on Long Island.

# Long Island Hispanic Bar (Association presents the

Community Hero Award

to George Siberon



GEORGE SIBERON IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HEMPSTEAD HISPANIC CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC., A NOT FOR PROFIT, COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES FOR OVER 45 YEARS.

WITH OVER 40 YEARS OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE GEORGE HAS ALSO WORKED AS:

- -EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NASSAU COUNTY YOUTH BOARD
- -DISTRIC MANAGER FOR CONGRESSWOMAN NYDIA VELAZQUEZ
- -DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PROGRAMS AND ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ASPIRA OF NEW YORK.

#### ACADEMICALLY, GEORGE HAS EARNED:

- -BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE, QUEENS COLLEGE
- -MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK DEGREE, FORDHAM UNIVERSITY
- -MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION DEGREE, BARUCH COLLEGE, WHERE HE GRADUATED WITH HONORS.

GEORGE IS A GRADUATE OF THE PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL URBAN FELLOWS PROGRAM AND IS A MEMBER OF PHI ALPHA, THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION.

- -COMMUNITY AWARDS
- -LONG ISLANDER WHO HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE-LONG ISLAND PROGRESSIVE COALITION
- -HISPANIC BROTHERHOOD OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
- -CIRCULO DE LA HISPANIDAD
- -VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD
- -EOC OF NASSAU COUNTY
- -HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY, UNISPAN AWARD

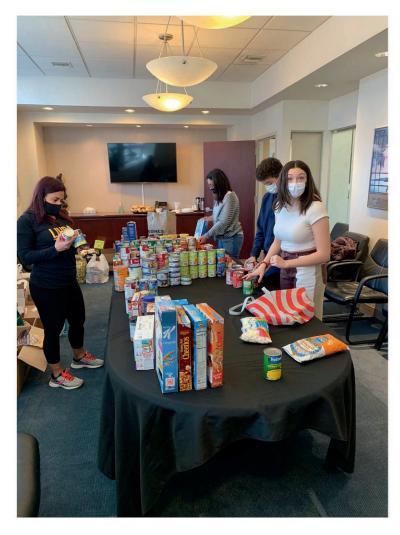
#### **BOARD AFFILIATIONS:**

- -MEMBER, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- -MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTOR, DREAM FOUNDATION
- -MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TEATRO EXPERIMENTAL YERBABRUJA
- - MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, VILLAGE OF HEMPSTEAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

GEORGE LIVES IN BALDWIN, NEW YORK WITH HIS WIFE, DR. MARGARITA LOPEZ-SIBERON AND THEIR DAUGHTER TANYA.









## Outgoing President's Message

Líza Mílgrím-Reyes, Esq.



Dear Family, Friends, Colleagues, Honorees and distinguished Guests,

Welcome and bienvenidos to our 20th Anniversary Scholarship Gala, in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. During this unique time, we are so appreciative to have you join us this evening as we celebrate the many accomplishments of the LIHBA. This evening we are honoring three remarkable community leaders: George Siberon, Executive Director of the Hempstead Hispanic Civic Association; Sylvia Finkelstein, Esq., Assistant District Attorney and Director of the Office of Immigrant Affairs at the Nassau County District Attorney's Office and Jacqueline Franco, NYS Certified Business Advisor at the Small Business Development Center at Stony Brook University. During a pandemic that disproportionately impacted the Latino community, these leaders continued to advocate for the Latino community and provided much needed resources and services. We are also delighted to recognize six deserving Latino law students who will receive an LIHBA Scholarship. Tonight, we also warmly welcome and are privileged to have the Honorable Hector D. LaSalle, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, as this evening's keynote speaker.

When I took office, I had a goal to expand the reach of the LIHBA and to help nurture the interest, growth and development of our younger generation of lawyers. This year, the LIHBA created an LSAT prep course scholarship. The LSAT is a critical component of law school admission and is often a challenge for students of color. A student's success on the LSAT is the first step in helping them realize their dream of becoming a lawyer and diversifying our bar.

In my endeavor to help the LIHBA become a resource to law students and new lawyers, the LIHBA created professional development programs specific to law students and new lawyers. Many members of the LIHBA know first-hand the struggles of being the "first" in their family - the first to attend college, the first to attend law school, the first to become a lawyer. We hosted five virtual professional development programs that provided attendees a chance to engage with the panelists and have open discussions about their career paths and challenges they overcame.

We partnered and worked with the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, Hispanic National Bar Association, Nassau Suffolk Law Services and Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association on presenting additional professional development programs and CLEs to our members. We hosted a Diversity and Inclusion CLE highlighting the history of our Afro-Latino brothers and sisters and our role in the racial justice movement.

The LIHBA continued to collaborate with the Nassau County Office of Hispanic Affairs with the Legal Information Program, under the guidance of our Past President, the Hon. Linda K. Mejias. This program connects LIHBA attorney volunteers to constituents looking to obtain free, accurate legal information. This year, the LIHBA recognized the need to provide legal information to a greater audience. With the assistance of our members, we hosted monthly "Know Your Rights" programs on Facebook Live in both English and Spanish, where legal topics important to the Latino community were presented, along with a Q&A segment.

The pandemic made the basic needs of our community a top priority. With a generous food donation from my law firm, Sullivan Papain Block McGrath Coffinas and Cannavo P.C. and our LIHBA members, we delivered food across Long Island- from Hempstead to Patchogue. We made sure our community partners, the Hempstead Hispanic Bar Association and Sepa Mujer, received large toy donations and supermarket gift cards to help put a holiday meal on the table. Our members and sponsoring firms generously donated hundreds of coats that we delivered to these organizations. We donated over fifty new coats and Target gift cards to Latina Sister's Support Inc, a Suffolk County based cancer support group. Our charitable efforts were recognized several times this year by News 12 and Channel 7.

The pandemic did not stop the LIHBA from safely hosting our Prom Dress Drive, which started during the presidency of the Hon. Helen Voutsinas. We collected and brought over 150 gowns to Freeport High School where over 70 seniors said "yes" to the dress!

Many law firms that generally participate in the LIHBA summer internship program were affected by the pandemic and could not commit to hiring a summer intern. With the generous support of Bethpage Federal Credit Union, we created paid internships at the Nassau County Legal Aid Society, Sepa Mujer and a Judicial Internship. We were able to place an LIHBA intern with the Hon. Helen Voutsinas and continued to provide a paid summer internship at the Nassau County District Attorney's Office as in past years.

The generosity of our sponsors and members ensures that the LIHBA is able to provide scholarships to deserving Latino law students. The competition for this year's scholarships was intense. Our selected recipients are motivated, vibrant individuals who will undoubtedly make a difference in our profession and in our community.

This past year, the LIHBA joined forces with other Latino Bar Associations as we collectively called upon by the Governor to appoint more Latino Judges. We are proud of our efforts and the results, but there is more work to be done. We must continue to advocate to ensure that the judiciary is reflective of the rich diversity of our State, especially here on Long Island.

I am proud of the work accomplished this year. I want to thank the LIHBA Board for your steadfast commitment to our mission and goals and your unrelenting commitment to the Latino community. I want to thank the LIHBA members for trusting me to lead this Bar Association and your continued support. It has been my privilege to have served as president.

Liza Milgrim Reyes President, LIHBA



#### The Officers and Board of Directors of LIHBA

Thank and Congratulate Outgoing President

## LIZA MILGRIM-REYES



For Her Leadership and Dedication to LIHBA

Throughout This Entire Year!















## **Incoming President**

# Veronica Renta Irwin Esq.



Veronica Renta Irwin, Esq. has been a practicing attorney for twenty-two years, having graduated from Hofstra Law School in 1999. Her parents were both born in Puerto Rico and instilled in her an excellent work ethic and strong sense of social responsibility. For eleven years, she practiced privately in her own firm, and was able to devote considerable time to social issues and pro bono work. Of particular importance to her are matters affecting minorities, women and children. While developing her practice, she made it a priority to assist lower income women through Nassau Suffolk Legal Services and victims of domestic violence through the Safe Center. She also participated in community outreach programs through her affiliation as a lone-time Board Member of the Nassau County Women's Bar Association, Board member of the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association and member of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Nassau County Bar Association, and Puerto Rican Bar Association. Her previous work with the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York allowed her to review and have input on legislation that directly affects the rights and lives of women throughout the State of New York. After years of judging mock trial competitions at the high school, college and law school levels, she had the opportunity to coach a High School Mock Trial team, allowing her to encourage and nurture the aspirations of future attorneys. She takes every opportunity to mentor young female attorneys, in an attempt to encourage them to excel not only in the legal profession, but also to seek elected and judicial positions. She considers herself very fortunate to be able to devote time to her family, her work and her passions. Most recently, Veronica Renta Irwin has taken the position of Principal Law Clerk for the Supreme Court, Nassau County.

## Scholarship Winners



Jacqueline Carranza is a Paralegal with Phillips & Associates. She is dedicated to fighting for workers who have been discriminated against based on protected characteristics such as race, national origin, color, sex, religion, and disability. Ms. Carranza is a J.D. Candidate at Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center. Currently, she is a member of the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association; she was also a 2020 scholarship recipient of the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association. In Spring 2020, she received the Faculty Recognition Award for Academic Excellence in Civil Dispute Resolution & Procedure II.

Ms. Carranza graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and Justice on May 2017 from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. For more than five years, she was also a studio administrator for American Youth Dance Theater, where she danced pre-professionally in classical ballet throughout her teenage years. Ms. Carranza speaks fluent Spanish. She also volunteered with the Lucy Walsh Fund from 2015-2019, a program that offers free or low cost dance classes to children in financial need.



Jonathan Weiss is a current second year law student at St. John's University School of Law. Prior to law school, Jonathan studied and worked in Washington DC where he assisted his employer's pro bono group. In his capacity as a paralegal, Jonathan assisted asylum seekers from Latin America in a wide capacity. As a native Long Islander, born and raised in Farmingdale, he is happy to return home to study and eventually practice law. Jonathan hopes to practice Trusts & Estates, but he also hopes to use his education and past experiences to help Hispanic individuals who have immigrated to Long Island. As the son of an immigrant, this is near and dear to his heart and feels that his capacity, as a lawyer, can help change the lives of these individuals.



Hello all. My name is Jasmine Vega, and I am a 4L within the Flextime J.D. Program at Touro Law Center. Growing up in the Bronx, I saw the constant injustice within my community. Nevertheless, it was not until undergraduate college and being the victim of hazing that I decided to pursue law school to make a difference. Having been a victim myself, I realized there was a lack of guidance and resources available to those who are victims of hazing and bullying. Therefore, I co-founded Mom's Against Crimes in Colleges and Universities (M.A.C.C.U) to provide the needed guidance, education, support, and advocacy that so many victims required.

Since starting law school at Touro Law Center, my passion for the law and helping the underprivileged has grown. I look forward to continuing to serve the Long Island and Bronx communities upon graduation. As a wise person once told me, 'you determine the kind of lawyer you want to be,' for me, I intend on being the kind of lawyer that provides justice and a voice to the voiceless.

I want to thank the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association for this prestigious honor as the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association Scholarship recipient. I plan to use the scholarship to pay for my Bar Prep Course, as well as assist with helping to pay off my remaining tuition for the fall 2021 semester.

Thank you again for this prestigious honor.

### Scholarship Winners



My name is Nicole Purdee and I am a second year law student at Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University. My family emigrated to the United States from Ecuador in the 1940's. I was born and raised in Jackson Heights, Queens, NY. I graduated from Queens College with a bachelor's degree in political science. Currently, I am a full-time translator for a nonprofit organization in Queens. I also volunteer as a translator for the Hofstra Law Clinic helping 2L's, 3L's, and professors communicate with Spanish speaking clients. I am interested in Matrimonial, Real Estate, and Elder law. With my legal degree, I want to continue to work closely with the Hispanic community and help those with language barriers.



Leslie Contreras is a part-time second-year student at Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in International Crime and Justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Leslie is a first generation Mexican American, daughter of immigrants, and the first in her family to obtain a bachelor's degree and attend law school. Leslie's goal for the future is to work in the public sector to help create a legal environment where all people are fairly represented. She hopes to help promote the advancement of the Hispanic Community and would love to help inspire and guide young students who are thinking about applying for law school.



My name is Thania Riyanto. I was born in Cuenca, Ecuador and I immigrated to the United States when I was nine years old. I experienced such a culture shock. The food was different and most of all, I was unable to communicate with my classmates.

Yet, there were the special people in my life - my family, teachers and community members who helped me adapt.

I am now a first-generation high school and college graduate. Prior to attending law school, I worked closely as a paralegal in Queens, New York. As a current, second-year law school student, I am working towards my dream of becoming an advocate for my community. It is an honor to help increase the Latinx representation in the United States.



#### SERVICIOS PARA EL AVANCE DE LA MUJER SERVICES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

110 North Ocean Avenue, Suite C Patchogue, NY 11772

Phone: (631) 980-2555 www.sepamujer.org

September 16, 2021

I just wanted to express my gratitude for the sponsored law intern. The Legal intern was a pleasure to work with. He was motivated, willing to learn new things and extremely helpful to SEPA's mission.

I am sure that he will be an asset to any organization in the future and truly believe that he will have a very bright future as an attorney. He demonstrated compassion for the immigrant victims we represent and I know that his exposure to immigrant issues will help him in his legal career.

SEPA Mujer, Inc. extends its thanks to the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association for the opportunity to participate in your Legal Internship Program.

Regards,

Juana C. Torres, Esq. Legal Program Director

# LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF NASSAU COUNTY, NY 40 Main Street, 3d. Fl., Hempstead NY 11550 (516) 560-6400

N. Scott Banks Attorney in Chief 516-560-6412

September 17, 2021

Oscar Michelen Cuomo LLC 200 Old Country Road Suite 2 South Mineola, NY 11501

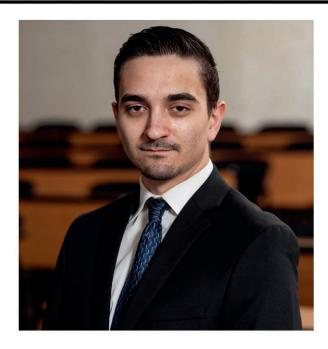
Re: Leonardo Sandoval

Dear Mr. Michelen:

I want to thank the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association for sponsoring Leonardo Sandoval as its scholarship intern at the Legal Aid Society of Nassau County this summer. Leonardo was an excellent addition to our staff this summer, assisting our District Court attorneys on many research projects and motion work. Leonardo also assisted our attorneys in the Domestic Violence part in District Court where he conducted interviews of clients and help our attorneys with Spanish interpretation.

Very truly yours,

N. Scott Banks Attorney in Chief



I am 26 years old and currently a 3L at Hofstra Law School with a passion for Criminal Law and Immigration. I am a first-generation immigrant with my father being Colombian and my mother Puerto Rican. My parents have worked hard to allow my brother and I to attend college and law school. My parents were always generous even though we struggled financially throughout my childhood. I know my parents and families back home are proud of all the work I have accomplished. I am fortunate enough to have met the love of my life and I will be getting married on September 16, 2023. There is much to be grateful for especially the opportunities the LIHBA has given me. The Long Island Hispanic Bar Association allowed me to experience an incredible summer internship. This summer I interned at SEPA Mujer Inc. Everyone at SEPA Mujer was humble and beyond passionate about helping others. The Director of the Legal Department Juana Cortes De Torres is unlike any other attorney I have met. Ms. Torres truly cares about every person that walks into SEPA Mujer seeking immigration help. Ms. Torres goes above and beyond for her clients to make sure all their needs are met. I have learned how to communicate with victims of domestic violence and be a part of a lifechanging process. SEPA Mujer is committed to changing the lives of entire generations and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to learn and work with such amazing people.

The Long Island Hispanic Bar Association and its sponsors allowed me to help Latinos and Latinas just like myself. I am truly proud to be a young Latino lawyer. Sincerely,

Carlos Enrique Valencia



Dear Long Island Hispanic Bar Association,

I am writing to express my sincerest gratitude for allowing me to participate in the LIHBA summer internship in the chambers of Hon. Helen Voutsinas in the Supreme Court of Nassau County. I am a 25-year-old 2L at St. John's University School of Law with an interest in Anti-Trust and Intellectual Property Law. I am a first-generation college graduate from Hamilton College, and a first-generation law student. My grandparents never had the opportunity for formal education beyond grade school. My paternal grandfather immigrated to the United States weeks before the Cuban Missile Crisis. My paternal grandmother left Guatemala during the Guatemalan Civil War. My maternal grandfather migrated to New York from Puerto Rico in the 1950s. My maternal grandmother left sharecropping in the American South during the Great Migration for the promise of greater opportunity in the North. My parents lived the transition from poverty to relative prosperity. With my eldest sister being born with cerebral palsy, they never had the opportunity to pursue their education past high school, but they made sure my brother and I did. I am my parents and my ancestors' wildest dreams.

The Long Island Hispanic Bar Association granted me the enormous opportunity to intern in the chambers of Hon. Helen Voutsinas this summer. In her chambers, I observed hundreds of conferences, drafted a wide arrange of decisions, and watched as she brought resolution to many cases. I had the additional privilege of interning in Hon. Voutsinas' chambers while she served on Appellate Term and was able to observe and digest cases which were proceeding through the New York appellate process. Witnessing her knowledge of the law and professional demeanor on full display was inspiring. Interning under Hon. Voutsinas taught me how to proceed with the confidence and orgullo I will need for the continuation of my academic studies and into my professional career. I am incredibly grateful for the interest that Hon. Voutsinas took in my personal success and development. I would have never had this amazing opportunity if not for the unbelievable generosity of the LIHBA.

The Long Island Hispanic Bar Association and its sponsors gave the opportunity to help a young Black Latino like myself to sharpen his skills so for the next level of his legal career. I hope that I too, have the chance to pay it forward.

I am forever grateful.

Sincerely, Marcus Antonio Gutierrez



Thanks to the LIHBA Summer Internship program, I was able to intern with the Nassau County Legal Aid Society this past summer. It was a great experience, something I will recommend every law student to experience if they have the opportunity. My name is Leonardo Sandoval. I am currently in my second year at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University. I am a first-generation student, my parents immigrated to Long Island, and I was born here shortly after at the Nassau University Medical Center. We lived in Elmont until I was 10 years old, then moved out to Brentwood, Long Island where I graduated high school. My path to law school was full of hurdles. Some big hurdles, some small, some internal and some external. Without going into all the details and reasons, working class Latino communities like Brentwood, as many Long Islanders know, do not produce too many attorneys. Unfortunately, the neighborhood is known more for producing criminal law and immigration clients, which can become a hurdle for anyone growing up there. Although I wanted to be an attorney since I was in grade school, these hurdles slowed me down as my friends, family and myself became involved with the negative aspects of the community. However, the hurdles did not stop me and now I am very proud to be the first U.S. lawyer in my family, (after I pass the bar of course). Growing up in Brentwood was both a hurdle and an inspiration for me to attend law school. Although it slowed me down, it was seeing my friends and family members deal with the justice system which fueled a passion in me to help, and what better way to help than to become a counselor of law and a resource for communities like Brentwood.

I would again like to thank the LIHBA, the Nassau County Legal Aid Society and all the sponsors that make these opportunities possible for latino law students like myself. Being able to give back to the Latino community on Long Island by helping them

possible for latino law students like myself. Being able to give back to the Latino community on Long Island by helping them navigate the criminal justice system was a great learning experience which also fulfilled the desire to help my people. Every time I stepped into the Nassau County District court, I felt empowered. It was a great feeling to be able to take someone who was in court with a high level of anxiety and lower that anxiety by explaining their legal situation in their own language. There were several days where I left the courtroom thinking, "this is what I was made to do". I am excited about the fact that I have only begun to scratch the surface, and this career will give me many opportunities to help both latino communities like Brentwood and anyone else in New York who needs an attorney in their corner who understands where they are coming from. Thank you LIHBA for making this summer internship possible, it was the highlight of my first year as a law student and future attorney..

Thank you all and kind regards, Leonardo A. Sandoval



Being a first-generation college student was not easy but being a first-generation law student has been strenuous. Starting law school, I had no one to look up to and was very frightened that I never would. I found myself reaching up in hopes that someone would take my hand and help me navigate the legal world. I felt great levels of anxiety and just wanted to give up. I could not seem to find a job nor a support system.

Being able to participate in the LIHBA summer internship program made all my worries melt away. I was able to get a summer position at the Nassau County District Attorney's Office where I got to work with amazing individuals and worked on researching a wide range of legal issues. I got the opportunity to learn about, and work towards, the DA's office true mission and that is to make sure justice is served.

I'd like to thank the LIHBA and all sponsors that made the LIHBA internship program possible. It truly had a positive impact on my law school career!

- Emelybel Vasquez Molina

## **JOHN JAY COLLEGE FOUNDATION, Inc.**

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September 20, 2021

Long Island Hispanic Bar Association Attn: President Liza Milgrim PO Box 418 Garden City, New York 11530

Dear Members of LIHBA,

I would like very much to thank you for your sponsoring an LSAT prep course for two of our Pre-Law students.

The Pre-Law Institute helps develop our student's academic and professional skills and advises them on their law school applications—all in hopes of diversifying the legal profession. A crucial part of our work is providing students with preparation for the LSAT, which as you know, is a critical component for law school admission, and often a challenge for students of color. In a profession where lawyers of color make up less than ten percent of all lawyers, our students' success on the LSAT is a vital component for helping them to realize their dreams of becoming lawyers and for diversifying our nation's bar.

By way of context, at John Jay, which is both a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and a Minority Serving Institution (MSI), 47% of our students are the first in their families to go to college and a majority comes from households with an average income of \$30,000 or less. However, we instill in our students that their background is not a liability, but an asset. As national and local events of the past few years—along with a long-term demographic shift—have demonstrated, it is essential that we have a legal profession that represents the demographic diversity of our country. For the last 15 years, we here at John Jay College have been striving to create opportunities for students from groups that have for too long been underrepresented in our profession. While there remains much work yet to be done, we are pleased to see that our efforts are yielding dividends. In the past few years, John Jay College has become one of the top national producers of minority applicants to law school. Our remarkable success in this important missior is in large part due to the generosity of partners like the LIHBA and we look forwarc to working closely with you in the future.

Thank you for partnering with us.

Sincerely,

awalson

Charles Davidson, Ph.D

# The Long Island Hispanic Bar Association (LIHBA) LSAT Prep Sponsorship Award Recipients



## Haniya Nadeem '22 Valley Stream, NY

"Thank you to LIHBA for giving me this opportunity and for helping me to kickstart my journey to law school. I believe this will positively affect my future career and prospects in the legal field. Not only has this given me the motivation to continue working hard, but it will also help me do my best on the LSAT. I now move forward with the dedication that one day I will also be able to give back to the community and help LIHBA in its commitment to diversifying the legal profession."

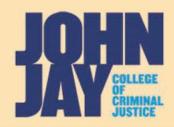
- Haniya



David Salgado '22 Queens, NY

"Thank you for sponsoring me for this scholarship. The LSAT preparation course will help me tackle studying for LSAT efficiently. Also, it is convenient that these LSAT courses are free since my income is not stable. I know that this course will help prepare me to receive an excellent score on the LSAT."

- David



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September 30, 2021

Long Island Hispanic Bar Association P.O. Box 418 Garden City, NY 11530

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to all gathered at the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Gala and I especially would like to extend my warmest congratulations to this year's honorees: Silvia Pastor Finkelstein, Esq., George Siberon, and Jacqueline Franco. I would also like to recognize the Honorable Hector D. LaSalle who will be serving as the Keynote Speaker.

Founded in 2001, the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association has flourished and grown to over 100 attorneys, professionals, and law student members across Long Island and Queens. The services it provides such as conducting free education seminars, working with domestic violence advocacy groups, conducting a forum on immigration reform, developing a referral hotline and more highlights the hard work and commitment of the association.

Events like the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Gala demonstrate the organization's commitment to building stronger relationships within Long Island and promoting diversity.

Please accept my wishes for a joyful celebration and much continued success.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Suozzi Member of Congress Third District, New York

Thomas R. Surgai

TRS:gg





Office of the County Executive 1550 Franklin Avenue Mineola, New York 11501

September 30, 2021

Dear Friends,

Please accept my warmest greetings and congratulations as you gather to celebrate the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association's 20th Annual Scholarship Gala. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the fine work of this organization and the 2021 honorees.

The Long Island Hispanic Bar Association has established a distinguished record of excellence, working diligently on behalf of causes and ideals which uphold the principles of human decency, brotherhood, and compassion.

This wonderful organization deserves the esteem of Nassau County for its selfless service to the community, which has made a permanent and positive impact on us all.

This year's event gives us the opportunity to acknowledge the achievements of tonight's guests of honor, Silvia Pastor Finkelstein, Esq., George Siberon, and Jacqueline Franco, recognizing their leadership and commitment to the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association. I would like to extend a special thank you to all who have worked toward forwarding the goals of this fine organization throughout the year.

Best wishes for continued success in all your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Laura Curran

County Executive

CHAIRMAN

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September 30, 2021

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email:

thomas@nysenate.gov

Dear Friends:

Please accept my heartfelt greetings and congratulations as you gather with the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association ("LIHBA") for its 20th Annual Scholarship Gala.

Since its inception in 2001, the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association (LIHBA) has dedicated itself to promoting and fostering the advancement of the Long Island Hispanic legal profession as well as the Hispanic community as a whole. The LIHBA is continually offering educational seminars, career improvement workshops, and networking events to develop and strengthen the economic opportunities within the Hispanic legal and business community on Long Island.

I am proud to join in recognizing tonight's special honorees, whose leadership and commitment advance their fields, as well as LIHBA's mission of promoting and fostering the advancement of the Long Island Hispanic legal profession. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Silvia Pastor Finkelstein, Esq., Assistant District Attorney and Director of the Office of Immigrant Affairs at the Nassau County District Attorney's Office; George Siberon, Executive Director of the Hempstead Hispanic Civic Association; and Jacqueline Franco, NYS Certified Business Advisor at the Small Business Development Center at Stony Brook University.

On this special occasion, I applaud everyone affiliated with LIHBA for your continuing history of contributions to Long Island and New York State. Best wishes for a terrific event and much future success.

Sincerely,

Kevin Thomas New York State Senator

6th Senate District

# CONGRATULATIONS TO HON. HECTOR D. LA SALLE SILVIA PASTOR FINKELSTEIN, ESQ. GEORGE SIBERON JACQUELINE FRANCO

AND THANK YOU TO THE
LONG ISLAND HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION
FOR HELPING LOCAL STUDENTS



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#### CONGRATULATES

Member and Outgoing President,
Liza Milgrim-Reyes, Esq.
on her contributions and dedication to the
mission of the LIHBA

AND ALSO

Congratulates the Incoming Officers and Board, Honorees and Scholarship Recipients



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# Barshay, Rizzo & Lopez, PLLC is proud to support the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association.

Congratulations on 20 years of advocating on behalf of the Hispanic community and promoting the advancement of Hispanic attorneys on Long Island!

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Congratulations to Incoming President Veronica Renta Irwin, Esq. We know you will do a wonderful job!

\* \* \*

The Nassau County Women's Bar Association
proudly supports
The Long Island Hispanic Bar Association
Annual Installation and Scholarship Gala

TOURO LAW CENTER CONGRATULATES



Congratulations on 20 years of promoting and fostering the advancement of the Long Island Hispanic legal profession and the Hispanic community as a whole.





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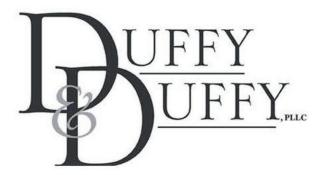
Together with the Associates and Staff of

Duffy & Duffy

Extend best wishes and congratulations to

## The Long Island Hispanic Bar Association

In celebrating 20 years of extraordinary dedication and commitment to diversity in the legal community.





The Officers, Directors, members &
Staff of the
Suffolk County Bar Association and the
Academy of Law
Salute the LI Hispanic Bar Association
Celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Gala



Salutations to LIHBA Incoming President
Veronica Renta Irwin,
Her incoming Officers and Directors and wishing
The Association a successful administration



Warm regards to Keynote Speaker Presiding Justice Hector D. LaSalle Appellate Division, Second Judicial Dept.

For his many years of distinguished service and dedication

To the legal profession and community.



Daniel J. Tambasco, President Sarah Jane LaCova, Executive Director



### LONG ISLANC HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION

on its

20th ANNIVERSARY

and

ANNUAL INSTALLATION & SCHOLARSHIP GALA



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## We congratulate Isabel Mira, Esq. upon her election to the Board of The Long Island Hispanic Bar Association!



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Bond is happy to support the **Long Island Hispanic Bar Association** and its mission to promote the advancement of Hispanic attorneys and the Hispanic community on Long Island. We are a firm devoted to a thriving future for our clients and the communities in which we live.



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## Congratulates All of Tonight's Honorees And the Entire LIHBA Board!

A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be. (Rosalynn Carter)

Congratulations

Veronica Renta Irwin, Esq.

Incoming President of the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association

Hon. Sharon M.J. Gianelli



## Circulo De La Hispanidad

Congratulates

Incoming Long Island Hispanic Bar Association President

### Veronica Renta Irwin







Nassau Community College & The Nassau Community College Foundation

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ANNUAL INSTALLATION AND SCHOLARSHIP GALA

September 30, 2021

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### Congratulations & Best Wishes

Veronica Renta Irwin, Esq. Community Hero Award LIZA MILGRIM, ESQ

and the

2021-2022 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS RECIPIENTS:

George Siberon Jacqueline Franco Silvia Pastor Finkelstein, Esq.











The Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University

is proud to join

#### The Long Island Hispanic **Bar Association**

in celebrating its Annual Installation and Scholarship Gala and 20th Anniversary.

Special congratulations to this year's Hofstra Law alumni officers:

Veronica Renta Irwin, Esq. '99, President Gianna Crespo, Esq. '11, Vice President (Membership) Brian Vasquez, Esq. '20, Secretary Maria Schwartz, Esq. '95, Board of Directors

Congratulations to all the officers and honorees!



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New York's premier private investigating company supports the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association Scholarship Gala and would like to congratulate incoming Treasurer, Maribel Gomez and the entire board.





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proudly supports the
Long Island
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in celebrating their
20th Anniversary Gala
and congratulates
the Honorees
and Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to Firm Member James Aliaga on being named a Regional President of the Year by the Hispanic National Bar Association

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We Are Proud to Support the 20th Anniversary Annual Installation and Scholarship Gala

Congratulations to Veronica Renta Irwin and the rest of the honorees!

We admire the valuable services you provide to the Long Island Hispanic community.

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Dean Michael Simons
and the St. John's Law community
thank the LIHBA
for supporting our students!



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RANDI B. SIEGEL

Attorney at Law

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# Are you interested in becoming a member of the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association?

If so, please visit our website for more information https://www.lihba.org/

You can also scan the QR code to take you directly to the online application.



Make sure to check us out on facebook. https://www.facebook.com/LongIslandHispanic BarAssociation

Thank you for attending our event!