

Dominican Bar Association, Inc.

*Commemorative Souvenir Journal
3rd Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance
Thursday, May 18, 2006*



*EMPOWERING THE
DOMINICAN COMMUNITY*



HIMNO NACIONAL DOMINICANO *(Dominican National Anthem)*



*Quisqueyanos valientes alcemos
nuestro canto con viva emoción
y del mundo a las faz ostentemos
nuestro invicto glorioso pendón*

*Salve el pueblo que intrépido y fuerte
a la guerra a morir se lanzó
cuando en bélico reto de muerte
sus cadenas de esclavo rompió*

*Ningún pueblo ser libre merece
si es esclavo, indolente y servil,
si en su pecho la llama no crece
que templó el heroismo viril*

*Mas Quisqueya, la indómita y brava
siempre altiva la frente alzará
que si fuere mil veces esclava
otras tantas ser libre sabrá!*

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Saludos!!!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Dominican Bar Association ("DBA"), it is my pleasure to welcome you to our 3rd Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance.

This year, we honor three individuals whose tireless efforts have empowered and given a voice to our community. The Dominican community's "voice" was first heard in the 1980's when Dominicans began to take control of the local school board in Washington Heights which ultimately led to the redistricting and creation of School Board District 10. Since then, our "voice" is being heard not only in Washington Heights but throughout New York State, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island. Our distinguished honorees; Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Maria Luna and Julissa Reynoso have all played a pivotal role in making sure that our voice is heard.

Since the 1990's, DBA has demonstrated a commitment to furthering the legal interests of all Latinos and Dominicans in the community. For example, this year DBA has lent their support to the New Immigrant Community Empowerment (NICE) organization. NICE is a cross-cultural, non-profit organization that uses organizing, advocacy, and public education to ensure that new immigrants are active, informed, and influential in civic, governmental and public affairs. One of their goals is changing the election law so that non-citizen residents can vote in local elections.

Our theme, "Empowering the Dominican Community" is also evident in this year's scholarship recipients: Janette Garcia, Michael Rosado and Melissa Colon. Throughout their short careers, each of them has demonstrated their commitment to giving a "voice" to the Latino community.

Finally, we thank our Scholarship Sponsors, Judicial Title Insurance Agency and the law firm of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Green & MacRae, L.L.P., and all of our guests for joining us this evening. It is with your support, that DBA can fulfill it's mission.

I hope you have a wonderful evening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Elsa Marte-Hampton'.

Elsa Marte-Hampton, Esq.

DOMINICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

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CLOSING REMARKS.....BIANKA PEREZ VEGA

DANCING

THE DOMINICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (DBA) is an incorporated, non-profit, national association representing the interests of Dominican-American, native Dominican and Latino attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students in the United States and the Dominican Republic. Founded in New York City in 1990 as The American Society of Dominican Attorneys, DBA has grown to represent thousands of Latino attorneys and law students across the country. The DBA invites all Latino attorneys as well as others within the profession who subscribe to the goals and philosophy of DBA to become members.

DBA'S MISSION STATEMENT:

To increase professional opportunities for Dominican-American, native Dominican and Latino attorneys in the U.S. legal profession;

To assist native Dominican lawyers and attorneys of other nationalities in meeting the requirements for the practice of law in the U.S., including assisting foreign attorneys in obtaining the Foreign Legal Consultant License issued by the Court of Appeals of the State of New York and its counterpart in other U.S. states;

To assist in the recruitment and retention of Dominicans and Latinos in U.S. law schools and provide students with mentoring, scholarships and other assistance;

To partner with other bar associations, governmental agencies and community groups to foster greater participation in the U.S. legal system by the Dominican and Latino communities;

To address issues of concern to the Dominican and Latino communities in the U.S.;

To safeguard the civil rights of the Dominican and Latino communities and to empower said communities to fully participate in American society through public education and outreach; and,

To ensure fairness and diversity in judicial appointments by serving on various judicial screening panels and committees.

DOMINICAN BAR ASSOCIATION HISTORY

The history of the Dominican Bar Association begins with the large migration of people from the Dominican Republic to the City of New York that occurred in the 1960's and 1970's. Many of those migrating over that time were lawyers, doctors, engineers, *etc.*, who left professional careers in the Dominican Republic in search of a better life in the City of New York.

However, after their arrival in the city they quickly found that life would still be difficult despite their professional credentials. Early on most Dominican lawyers, doctors, architects, engineers, *etc.*, struggled because their professional licenses obtained in the Dominican Republic were not recognized by the State of New York. As a result, although professionally trained and experienced, most people were forced to accept employment wherever they could find it, *i.e.* as laborers, blue-collar workers, *etc.* Yet, they never abandoned their desire to resume their professional careers in the State of New York.

With that goal in mind they gradually began to hold informal meetings to discuss how they could make the transition. Initially, meetings took place at their respective homes, in local restaurants and in local sporting clubs. As time went on and the number of Dominican lawyers in the city grew, the need to establish their own formal organization became apparent. It was then that four Dominican attorneys began to meet and discuss the creation of an organization dedicated solely to the interests of lawyers, law students and the legal interests of the Latino community.

The driving force in creating that organization was Victor M. Espinal. Along with co-founders Nurys De Oleo, Rosa Leyda Mateo and Aurea Vasquez, they collectively created the American Society of Dominican Attorneys (ASDA) in 1990. At the time, none were admitted to practice law in the State of New York. In fact, given that most Dominican lawyers living in New York at the time were only licensed to practice law in the Dominican Republic, most of ASDA's initial efforts were directed towards assisting those individuals in gaining admission to the bar.

As the years progressed, more Dominican lawyers became admitted in New York. In addition, second and third generation Dominicans, born and raised in this state, also became admitted attorneys in New York. That slow but steady rise shifted ASDA's primary focus away from easing the transition of foreign attorneys to advancing the interests of those attorneys already practicing law within the State of New York. As a result, in 1996 the organization began doing business as the Dominican Bar Association, Inc. to more accurately reflect its membership.

Throughout its history the Dominican Bar Association has demonstrated a commitment to furthering the legal interests of all Latinos and Dominicans in all facets of the community. DBA's efforts have consisted of providing pro bono legal clinics for members of the public, assisting law students by providing scholarships and mentoring, facilitating communication between the bar and the judiciary and actively participating in the selection process of judicial candidates to name just a few activities. While much has been accomplished, DBA looks forward to continuing to perform its work in the present day and into the future.



Adriano Espaillat

Honoree
Hon. Adriano Espaillat
NYS Assemblyman, 72nd District

In 1996, Adriano Espaillat became the first Dominican-American elected to a State House in the United States. He represents the 72nd Assembly District, which encompasses Washington Heights, Inwood and Marble Hill in Upper Manhattan. He is a member of the following Committees: Alcoholism and Drug Abuse; Children & Families; Corporations, Authorities & Commissions; Insurance; and Real Property Taxation. He is also first Vice-Chair of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus and a member of the Puerto Rican & Hispanic Task Force. He was recently appointed by New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver to serve on the New York State Task Force on New Americans.

During his first term in office, Assemblyman Espaillat introduced and voted on numerous legislative initiatives on education, public safety, environmental issues, tenants' rights and the environment. Espaillat has an outstanding record as a community activist and supporter of issues that affect the disadvantaged, working people, families, and that protect economic development and neighborhood revitalization. In 1994, Espaillat became the Director of Project Right Start, a national initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to combat substance abuse by educating the parents of pre-school children. In 1991, Espaillat was chosen as a member of Governor Mario Cuomo's Dominican Advisory Board, where he served for two years. The following year, he was elected Democratic District Leader for the 72nd Assembly District part A and was reelected in 1995. From 1992 to 1994, Espaillat served as Director of the Washington Heights Victims Services Community Office. Since 1986, Espaillat has actively served on Community Planning Board 12 as a member of the Executive Board.

Espaillat believes that an effective leader "must have the compassion to feel for our problems and the strength, vision and the leadership to provide viable solutions." Most importantly, however, is "one's disposition to persevere in the face of adversity and humbly serve the entire community." He graduated from Bishop Dubois High School in 1974. In 1978, he earned his B.S. degree in Political Science from Queens College, and later completed postgraduate courses in Public Administration at the New York University Leadership for Urban Executives Institute.



Honoree
Maria A. Luna
District Leader, 71st Assembly District

Maria Luna has been active in Democratic Party politics since her arrival to New York City from the Dominican Republic in the 1960s. She has been a pioneer in Latino political empowerment, as well as a tireless advocate for multi-ethnic coalition building. In 1983, she made history, becoming the first Dominican to be elected as District Leader in New York. In 1990, Ms. Luna became the first Latina from New York State to serve on the Democratic National Committee. She is also a Democratic State Committeewoman (and member of the state party's executive committee), and the Chair of Manhattan's Democratic County Committee. Ms. Luna is an active member of several Boards, has worked on national, state, municipal and local campaigns, and has been a founding member of several organizations which address social issues. Ms. Luna has received several citations for her community participation and leadership. Ms. Luna was born in Santiago, Dominican Republic, and has been a resident of Washington Heights/Inwood for over 40 years. She has two Bachelor of Science degrees: one in accounting/computer programming from Borough of Manhattan Community College, and another in natural sciences from *Colegio Ulises F. Espaillat*, Santiago, Dominican Republic.



Honoree
Julissa Reynoso, Esq.

Julissa Reynoso was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in the Bronx, NY. She attended Harvard University, the University of Cambridge and Columbia Law School. She is an attorney by trade and is currently serving in the Office of Accountability, NYC Department of Education. Prior to her current position, she was an associate at the law firm of Simpson Thacher & Barlett LLP and a Fellow at Columbia Law School. She has written several articles on social justice and new forms of organizations. She serves on the boards of several organizations committed to social change.

2006 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

LeBouef, Lamb, Green & MacRae Scholarship Recipient

Janette Garcia is currently attending Albany Law School and has been an active member of the Latino community since she was an undergraduate student at New York University. Janette helped to organize a panel discussion to address issues affecting minorities in the legal profession and continues to be an active member of the Latino student organization. While in law school, Janette participated in the Health Law Project where she managed her own caseload and helped individuals with family and social security issues. She is currently working on creating a tutoring program for elementary school students whose first language is Spanish. As a student member of the Dominican Bar Association she wrote an article in the DBA newsletter on her experience as a first year law student. One day Janette hopes to open her own law firm.

Steven Schiff Judicial Scholarship Recipient Judicial Title Insurance Agency

Michael Rosado is currently attending Columbia Law School. While he was an undergraduate student at Harvard, Michael was an active recruiter of Latino high school students to the university. Upon graduation, with a degree in economics, Michael joined Teach for America and spent two years working for the organization in Texas schools. During his first year in law school, Michael volunteered to help a student prepare for the LSAT and complete her law school applications. Next year, he plans to participate in a legal clinic and join the board of the Latino Law Student Association. Michael hopes to use his law degree to help the Latino community with its needs in the areas of business, education and immigration.

Dominican Bar Scholarship Recipient

Melissa Colon is currently attending Cornell Law School. Born and raised in the Bronx, Melissa is the first person in her family to attend college. Melissa attended Hunter College where she obtained a degree in Political Science. Throughout college, Melissa worked on various campaigns, in political offices and non-profit agencies. Her advocacy within the Latino community has continued through law school where she has been actively involved in the Latino Law Students Association the Minority Law Student Leaders Summit, among others. After graduation, Melissa plans to remain an active and contributing member of the Latino legal community.



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May 18, 2006

Dominican Bar Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 203
New York, NY 10013

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your invitation to 3rd Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance.

As an organization with an exceptional record of public service, the Dominican Bar Association should be proud of its many accomplishments. This Annual Dinner Dance honors this organization's dedication to serving the residents of this city and to upholding the integrity of our judicial process.

Since its inception, the Dominican Bar Association has demonstrated a commitment to furthering the legal interests of Latinos and Dominicans in all facets of the community by providing pro bono legal clinics for members of the public, assisting law students by providing scholarships and mentoring and actively participating in judicial screening panels.

Tonight, I am proud to join you in honoring New York State Assemblyman Adriano Espaillat, District Leader Maria Luna and Julissa Reynoso for their hard work and contributions.

On behalf of the 1.4 million residents of The Bronx, I, Adolfo Carrión Jr., President of the Borough of The Bronx, salute the Dominican Bar Association and wish this stellar institution continued success.

Sincerely,

Adolfo Carrión, Jr.

***CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
DOMINICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
AND THIS YEAR'S HONOREES
ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR
3RD ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER DANCE***



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c/o Howard R. Vargas, Esq., Treasurer
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Maria Luna, District Leader 71st AD

Julissa Reynoso, Esq., Associate, Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett, LLP

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for its support of the Network of Bar Leaders
and for the great work you do in the community.

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Julissa Reynoso

our friend and colleague

and

The Honorable
Adriano Espailat

and

Maria Luna

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and its honorees

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NYS Assemblyman, 72nd AD

Maria Luna

District Leader, 71st AD

and

Julissa Reynoso, Esq.

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Best Wishes to

*Fiordaliza A. Rodriguez, Esq.
Vice-President*

*for all her great work and vision of elevating this
Association to higher grounds!*

*And Congratulations
to all the Honorees*

*Elias Karmon
President
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*"In Ninety-Six There Is More Wisdom And Greater
Strength."*

LeBoeuf Lamb and its
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are proud to support the

Dominican Bar Association, Inc.

We commend this year's
scholarship dinner honorees

Honorable Adriano Espaillat
NYS Assemblyman, 72nd District

Maria Luna
District Leader, 71 A.D.

Julissa Reynoso, Esq.
Associate, Simpson, Thacher & Barlett LLP

on their leadership and contributions
to the Latino community.

May 18, 2006
New York, NY

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Congratulations to

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*for her hard work and dedication to
this organization*

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**Y LES EXHORTA CONTINUAR
COMO SIEMPRE TRILLANDO EL
CAMINO DE LA VERDAD EN
FAVOR DE TODA LA COMUNIDAD.**

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y luchadora*



Julissa Reynoso

*For her devotion to immigrant
communities everywhere*

May 18, 2006

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FELICITA

*A LA SRA. MARIA LUNA,
ASAMBLEISTA ADRIANO ESPAILLAT, Y LA
ABOGADA JULISSA REYNOSO*

**POR CONSIDERAR LOS VALORES Y
ESTANDARTE DE NUESTRA COMUNIDAD.**

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to all the
Honorees

Carmen Suardy, Esq.
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Congratulates

Eliezer Rodríguez, Esq.

*For being honored by the Bronx Manhattan North Association of Realtors as a
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"The Flight for Humanity"—a well deserved and long overdue tribute to the memory of
the great humanitarian and baseball player
Mr. Roberto Clemente.*

And

Honorees

Hon. Adriano Espaillat

Maria A. Luna

Julyssa Reynoso, Esq.

For their work in our Latino Communities.



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AND CONGRATULATES

*Honorable Adriano Espaillat, NYS Assemblyman, 72nd AD,
Maria Luna, District Leader, 71st AD,
Julissa Reynoso Esq., Associate, Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett, LLP
&
Scholarship Recipients*

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On December 23, 1972, Nicaragua was as struck by a devastating earthquake that killed more 6,000 people; injured more than 20,000; and, left hundreds of thousands homeless.

On December 31, 1972, Mr. Clemente boarded an airplane in Puerto Rico with the last 16,000 pounds of food and medical supplies he promised to the victims. The plane crashed into the ocean. Mr. Clemente's body was never found. He was only 38 years old.

On August 6, 1973, Mr. Clemente was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame becoming its first Latino member.

On January 1, 1995, a dream about Mr. Roberto Clemente inspires Mr. Eliezer Rodriguez to attend law school.

In September of 2000, Eliezer Rodriguez, Esq., puts his full-time law career on hold to form an organization to share Mr. Clemente's legacy with our youth.

On December 31, 2002, The Founder and CEO of Project Club Clemente Inc., Mr. Eliezer Rodriguez, Esq. said: "Many remember the plane crash that took our beloved Mr. Clemente, but most are surprised to hear the aid he was taking never made it to Nicaragua."

On December 31, 2005, "The Flight for Humanity" completed Mr. Clemente's last at-bat and delivered 16,324 pounds of aid, food and medicine from Puerto Rico to Nicaragua.

Thirty-three years after Mr. Clemente's death -- Promisa complida!

I

I want to thank everyone who made my journey of the past six years a success. To my lovely fiancée, Fiordaliza Rodriguez, thank you for not letting me give up on my dream. To my boys, Miguel Clemente and Cristian Marin Rodriguez -- daddy loves you both so very much!

I wish to congratulate tonight's honorees for demonstrating the values we have associated with Mr. Clemente:

Faith, Friendship, Love, Loyalty, Community and Commitment

Now that I have fulfilled my commitment to Project Club Clemente, my focus is in developing my private law practice (Grand opening June 16, 2006):

The Law Office of
Eliezer Rodriguez
 1601 Bronxdale Avenue
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Tel: (718) 239-2138 Erodriguezsq1@aol.com Fax: (718) 239-2131

***Congratulations
to the***

***Dominican Bar Association and the Honorees of the
Third Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance***

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HSO NY Applauds the 2006 DBA honorees:
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***Congratulations
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*Congratulations to
tonight's honorees*



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The Dominican Bar Association on the 3rd Annual Scholarship Celebration

and congratulations to your
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Hon. Adriano Espallat
Julissa Reynoso

For their committment and dedication
 to our community

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*The Dominican Bar Association thanks
all of the sponsors and attendees for
their generous support and congratulates
the honorees and the scholarship
recipients*

DBA Upcoming Events

May 23, 2006 - HNBA, PRBA, LLAQC and DBA Joint Membership Meeting hosted by the Law Firm of Jones Day, 222 East 41st Street, New York, NY 6pm. This meeting is sponsored by Allstate Insurance Co.

Community Legal Workshops

DBA will have a community legal workshop every 3rd Thursday of the month at the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Economic Development located at 600 W. 185th Street at 6pm. The scheduled topics include:

May 23 – Criminal Law
June 20 – Landlord and Tenant's Rights
July 18 – Identity Theft
August 22 – Topic TBA

These workshops are partially funded by a grant from the UPS Foundation.

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AND BEST WISHES TO THE
HONOREES!*

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