

# The Dominican Bar Association, Inc.

*5th Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance*

*Dominicans Thriving In Transnational Law*



*May 22, 2008  
The Manhattan Club  
New York, NY*



The City  
University  
of  
New York

congratulates

**The Dominican Bar Association**  
*Dominicans Thriving in Transitional Law*

SPECIAL HONOREE

**The Honorable Rolando Acosta**

Justice of the Supreme Court, Appellate Division

ALSO HONORING

**Josefa Sicard-Mirabal, Esq.**

**Jaime Mercado, Esq.**

**Ramona Romero, Esq.**

on the occasion of the

**5th Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance**

**Thursday, May 22, 2008**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benno C. Schmidt, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

BENNO C. SCHMIDT, JR.  
CHAIRMAN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Goldstein", written in a cursive style.

MATTHEW GOLDSTEIN  
CHANCELLOR

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am delighted to serve as the President of the Dominican Bar Association ("DBA"), an organization with which I have had great affinity and a long history as well.

While I am not clear who initially brought me and how I came across the group, I do remember that I was studying for the NY State Bar at the time, that the group was called ASDA (*American Society of Dominican Attorneys*) and that the person who insisted that I and everyone else joined and stayed was Victor Espinal.

Back then in the early 1990's, we met every Saturday. It is hard to imagine DBA meeting every week now, but then, not only were the meetings weekly, but they were *pasa dias*—all day long. We would start around midday with the Legal Workshops and Clinics at Intermediate School 143-*La Placita*, and would follow by chatting over a late Dominican lunch at the 184<sup>th</sup> street Caridad. Typically, the feast included the obligatory *tostones*, *carne frita*, *concón con habichuela* with *morir soñando* in the summer and *sancocho* in the winter. As long as the Dominican attorneys continued arriving, we kept ordering food and on occasions, we found ourselves ordering dinner as well. Like in the television show Cheers, everyone knew our names at Caridad, and we were known by our first names. Community members were so acquainted with our schedule that if they could not make it to the school, they would show up at the restaurant to ask their legal questions. I have such fond memories of that time, those places, that great food, but mostly of the people. Among them: Nilsa, Victor, sisters Tatíca and Caridad, Jose, Many, Luis, Jose, Ada, the other Jose, Serapio, Pachy, whose real name we would later know to be Ebenezer Smith. I am glad I was part of this group that came to be the foundation of DBA.

Equally memorable were the Dominican-American attorneys with whom I fortunately shared what in retrospect was the structural phase of DBA in the late 1990's. There were Julia Rodriguez, Carmen Fernandez-Goldman, Millie Matos, Carmen Suardy, Ada Guillod, Manuel "Many" Mendez, among others. Unlike the initial group, the builders were aware of the transcendent nature of this phase of DBA and while we grew close, fun and extra curricular activities took a back seat to methodic work. DBA made tremendous inroads during these years. By the time this group left the leadership of DBA, the organization had been transformed in great part into what we currently know as DBA, with legal incorporation, by-laws, etc in place. It was this group which put DBA on the Bar associations' map, bringing it closer to par with other minority Bars.

I have not always been part of the DBA leadership; however, through my participation at meetings and events, I have kept a close watch on the progress of the Association and have become aware of the many attorneys who have helped to sustain it, to nurture it, to develop it. People like José Pérez, Andy Lugo, Luís Díaz, Julissa Gómez, Néstor Díaz, Many Tavares, Oscar Herasme, Faviola Soto, Elsa Marte-Hampton, Fiordaliza, Eliezard, Llenet Beltre, Manuel Mendez, again.

And here I am again as part of the leadership of DBA, this time as its President. And once again, I am among a decisive group of individuals, all leaders in their own right, who, like their predecessors, will live up to the challenges facing DBA. Challenges such as increasing visibility, increasing membership, assisting domestic and foreign attorneys, supporting law students, providing more pro-bono assistance to community members, and helping shape laws and policies. This year is an election year, when important legal and policy issues potentially impacting the Latino community hang in the balance: national defense, immigration reform, the economy, trade agreements, our civil liberties. As attorneys, we need to weigh in on these issues. We need to affirmatively support candidates at all levels of government who espouse laws and policies reflecting our values and interest, while conversely clearly reject those candidates who threaten to work against our values and interest.

As I now lead our beloved DBA, I obviously stand on the strong shoulders of all the folks who have arduously worked to make it what it is today. Fortunately for me and for DBA, I stand confidently ready to assume my role because I stand next to qualified, caring individuals, who like me, have DBA's best interest and that our community at heart. Leaders, who like me, are committed to serve DBA with the spirit of camaraderie that has reigned through all the phases of DBA.

I urge you to take this opportunity to join or renew your membership with DBA and join us in our commitment to continue our tradition of strength, growth and service.



**Rayssa Castillo**

President



# The DBA Team



**Raysa Castillo- President**  
**Peter Cedeno- Vice President**



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**Bianka Vega, Esq.**  
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**Denise Dominguez, Esq.**  
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**Martha Tessler, Esq.**

## ABOUT US

**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 US 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.

## 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.

## **Associate Justice Rolando T. Acosta**

The Hon. Rolando T. Acosta, elected as a New York State Supreme Court Justice in New York County in 2002, was appointed in January 2008 by New York State Governor Elliot Spitzer to the Appellate Division, First Department. Prior to his election to the Supreme Court, Justice Acosta had been designated as an Acting Supreme Court Justice by Chief Judge Kaye to preside over, and spearhead the creation of, The Harlem Community Justice Center, a multi-jurisdictional, "problem-solving" court. Justice Acosta was elected to a County-wide Civil Court judgeship in New York County in 1997. He has published over one hundred decisions in the New York Law Journal, most of which have been published in the Official Reporter. Justice Acosta, immediate Past President of the Association of Judges of Hispanic Heritage was selected as the 2004 Judge of the Year by the National Hispanic Bar Association. He was recently awarded the 2008 John Carro Award for Judicial Excellence "in recognition of his leadership and scholarly work as a New York State Jurist and his work as a mentor and teacher within the Latino Community."

Justice Acosta is a 1979 graduate of Columbia College and a 1982 graduate of Columbia University School of Law. He is the recipient of Columbia University's "Medal for Excellence," conferred at the University's 2000 Commencement Exercises. In his Senior year at Columbia College, ten years after arriving as an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, Justice Acosta was named a Frank S. Hogan Scholar and was chosen by the student body to receive the Brainard Memorial Prize.

Prior to being elected to the Bench, Justice Acosta held various posts with the Legal Aid Society, including the Attorney-in-Charge of the largest civil trial office (1994-1995) and Director of Government and Community Relations, where he was responsible for developing the Society's legislative agenda and addressing government attacks on the Society and the poor. Justice Acosta served in Mayor (now Columbia Professor) David Dinkin's administration as the Human Rights Commission's Deputy Commissioner for Law Enforcement. In this role, he was responsible for directing all of the Commission's investigatory and prosecutorial functions, including the planning and execution of litigation strategy. In December 1993, Justice Acosta was appointed by Mayor Dinkins as a Commissioner of Human Rights.

Justice Acosta has been active in the development of the Washington Heights/Inwood social service infrastructure. He helped found the Community Association of Progressive Dominicans and the Latino Commission on AIDS. He has also served as legal adviser to the founding board of Alianza Dominicana and as treasurer and Chair of the Policy Committee of the Hispanic Federation. He has been a member of Community Planning Board 12 and President of Community School Board 6. In

1995, he was appointed by Congressman Charles Rangel to serve as a founding board member of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone (EZ). Until 1999, Justice Acosta served on the EZ's Executive Committee and chaired its Human Capital Development Committee, which he led in considering and recommending to the EZ Board all human capital and quality of life proposals.

Justice Acosta has been actively involved in numerous other community, civic, legal, and quasi-government organizations. He was commissioned by Chief Judge Kaye to serve on the Commission to Promote Public Confidence in Judicial Elections ("The Feerick Commission"). Until recently he served on the Continuing Legal Education Board (CLE) as a Chief Judge Kaye designee and currently serves on the Board of Advisors of the Louis Stein Center for Law and Ethics at Fordham Law School. Justice Acosta is a Fellow of the New York Bar Foundation and a former member of the New York American Inn of Court, created to improve the skills, professionalism and ethics of the bench and bar. He is a former President of the Association of Judges of Hispanic Heritage and member of the Board of the Juan Pablo Duarte Foundation.

Justice Acosta was the starting pitcher for the Columbia Lions and received every athletic prize awarded to a pitcher by the Ivy League and the Intercollegiate Baseball League during four years of varsity play, including First team All Ivy three times and Pitcher of the Year twice. In 1979, he was named one of the best student-athletes in the country by the NCAA, and, rather than play professional baseball, chose to attend Columbia Law School. A Dean's List student who still holds Columbia's season and career wins records, Justice Acosta was named to Columbia College Today's Dream Team in 1987. He has served as Board Member of the alumni associations of both the College and the Law School. He currently serves on the Advisory Board of Columbia's LAACU.

He resides in Northern Manhattan with his wife Vasthi and his children Zila and Lucas.

**Jaime Mercado, Esq.** is a Partner in the Firm's Corporate Department. He advises clients in mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, and project finance transactions. Mr. Mercado is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese and concentrates primarily on transactions in the United States and Latin America.

In corporate finance, Mr. Mercado has recently participated in leading transactions in Latin America, including the \$1.3 billion debt offering by América Móvil S.A. de C.V. of Mexico, the largest debt offering by a Latin American corporate issuer at the time, as well as debt offerings by Celulosa Arauco y Constitución, the Chilean pulp manufacturer and by Caribbean Development Bank, a multilateral institution. Mr. Mercado also has represented issuers such as Diagnósticos da América, Distribución y Servicio D&S and Embotelladora Andina in their initial equity offerings, and represented the underwriters in the initial public offering by CPFL Energia of Brazil and in a secondary equity offering by Forest Oil Corporation, a U.S.-based oil exploration company. Mr. Mercado has represented Morgan Stanley, Citigroup, UBS, CSFB and JPMorgan, among others and has represented these and other underwriters in issuances of high-yield bonds by various U.S.-based issuers. Mr. Mercado also has participated in various issuances of debt by sovereign issuers, including representing the underwriters in inaugural and other bond offerings by the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Guatemala.

In project finance, Mr. Mercado has represented a sponsor group in connection with the privatization and financing of Sangster International Airport in Jamaica, the sponsors in the privatization and financing for the expansion of six international airports in the Dominican Republic, the developer of the largest tourism-related development in the Dominican Republic, and GE Capital in the development of various hydroelectric projects in Central America.

Mr. Mercado's recent liability management and debt restructuring transactions have included representation of EDENOR S.A., an Argentine electricity distribution company, in its partial cash tender offer structured as a modified Dutch auction and of Banco Hipotecario S.A. in the restructuring of all its outstanding bond and bank indebtedness. Mr. Mercado recently represented the dealer managers in connection with an exchange offer by Dominican Republic in its \$1.1 billion debt restructuring.

Mergers and acquisitions transactions in which Mr. Mercado has recently participated include representing the financial advisors in connection with the merger of shares (*incorporação de ações*) involving Companhia Siderúrgica Belgo-Mineira and Companhia Siderúrgica de Tubarão, Bavaria S.A. in its



acquisition of Backus and Johnston of Peru, CNET Networks Inc. in its acquisition of ZIFF-Davis Inc., and Owens-Illinois in its acquisition of Consumer Products Inc. of Canada. Mr. Mercado also has experience in private equity transactions, including representing The Blackstone Group in various investments in Mexico and Argentina and the Brait Group in South Africa, in addition to representation of targets of private equity investments, most recently Promotora Ambiental S.A. in Mexico.

Mr. Mercado is active in pro bono activities at the Firm. He heads the Legal Aid Society's Associates' Campaign for the Firm and helps coordinate various activities for New York Cares, a charitable organization dedicated to improving the lives of all New Yorkers. In addition, Mr. Mercado serves on the boards of several public interest organizations, including Alianza Dominicana and Good Shepherd Volunteers.

Mr. Mercado received his B.A. in 1989 from Columbia University and his J.D. in 1995 from New York University School of Law.

**Josefa Sicard-Mirabal** serves as Director of Arbitration and ADR in North America for ICC's International Court of Arbitration. In this capacity, she represents and promotes ICC dispute resolution services in the United States and Canada, and advises North American attorneys and companies on all phases of arbitration, including negotiation of arbitration clauses, requests for arbitration, procedural issues and enforcement of arbitration awards.

Ms. Sicard-Mirabal began her legal career in the Dominican Republic, first as a judge in a small claims court and subsequently as chief justice of the Civil, Commercial and Labor Court. Since 1989, she has been in private practice in the United States, serving as Of Counsel in the New York office of Winston & Strawn and in the Miami office of Greenberg Traurig, and as an associate at the New York office of Thelen Reid and Priest.

Raised and educated in New York City, Ms. Sicard-Mirabal moved to the Dominican Republic and received a law degree from the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra. She continued her legal studies at Fordham University School of Law in New York. She is admitted to the New York State bar and the Dominican Republic bar. She is fluent in English, French, and Spanish.

Ms. Sicard-Mirabal founded and chairs Dominicans on Wall Street, Inc., a non-profit organization created primarily to serve as a liaison between Dominican companies seeking access to the U.S. and international capital markets and American companies wishing to invest in the Dominican Republic. She has been named one of the "20 Leading Latinas in Business" by Hispanic Enterprise magazine, in its September 2007 issue, one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics" by Hispanic Business Magazine in its October 2006 issue, and was a 2006 recipient of the DTM Magazine Latino Trendsetters Award.

## RAMONA EMILIA ROMERO

Ramona Romero is Corporate Counsel, Logistics and Energy at DuPont, where she is currently responsible for legal oversight of the acquisition of transportation, distribution, supply chain management and energy resources totaling billions of dollars each year. Previously, Ramona managed all facets of DuPont Legal's industry-leading outside counsel and supplier partnering program and oversaw many departmental operations, including e-discovery and litigation reporting for compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley. Having spent most of her career as a litigator, Ramona has also managed complex commercial and antitrust cases for DuPont. Prior to joining the Company, she practiced at a large firm in Washington, DC.

Ramona is known nationally as an advocate for diversity in the legal profession and as an expert in law department operations and outside counsel management. She has spoken at dozens of conferences and has been featured or quoted in numerous publications, including *The New York Times*, *Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* and *Corporate Counsel Magazine*, among others. Throughout her career, Ramona has been a volunteer leader in many community and professional organizations, including the American Red Cross in the Delmarva Peninsula and Delaware Futures (a support program for talented at-risk high school students). She has also served as President of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia and is a co-founder of the Dominican American National Roundtable, the first effort to empower Dominican-Americans nationally. Currently, she is the President-Elect of the Hispanic National Bar Association and will become its National President in September 2008.

Ramona's leadership and contributions have been recognized in a variety of contexts. For example, in 2007 she received the Lucero Award ("lucero" is Spanish for guiding star) from the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund. Also in 2007, *Hispanic Business Magazine* identified her as one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in the United States.

Ramona earned her BA from Barnard College, Columbia University in 1985 and her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1988. She is a member of the Hispanic National Bar Association, the Cuban American Bar Association, the Dominican Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association of Pennsylvania, the Association of Corporate Counsel, the Association of Transportation Law Professionals, and the American Bar Association. Ramona is admitted in Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia (inactive) and Delaware (as in-house counsel).

## 2008 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**Lynette Rente** is a first year student at Rutgers School of Law in Newark, NJ. She is a first generation college graduate and law school student who hails from North Bergen, NJ. Ms. Rente is interested in becoming a community advocate. The desire arose from her life experiences, which demonstrated to her the real need in the Latin communities for advocates to give voice to their concerns and needs.

Ms. Rente obtained her B.A. from Rutgers University while obtaining a double major in Political Science and Spanish to go along with her minor in Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caribbean Studies. While in college she studied abroad in France and Spain. She has been an exemplary student as evidenced by achieving Dean's List honors in 2005 and 2006.

Ms. Rente has been preparing for her role as a community advocate by working in the communities she hopes to serve by teaching non-English speaking parents conversational English as well as the all important ability to read the informational packets sent to them from their local school districts. Furthermore, she has interned with the Congressman Menendez who is now the distinguished Senator from New Jersey, primarily focusing on issues of concern to non-English speaking constituents. This summer Ms. Rente will Clerk for United States Magistrate Judge Cecchi.

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**Jocelyn A. Merced** is a second year student at Rutgers School of Law in Newark, NJ. She has a strong interest in public interest law reflected in her commitment to projects involving the Latin community. She has participated in projects involving prison outreach, AIDS awareness projects and employment rights.

Ms. Merced is currently on the Rutgers Race and the Law Review and serves as the co-chair of Rutgers' Minority Student Program Student Committee on Community Affairs. She received her B.S. from Cornell University and received Dean's List honors from 2004-2006 as well as the Order of the Omega. Ms. Merced has clerked for the Hon. James B. Convery of Superior Court, Essex Vicinage, New Jersey.





COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

CHARLES B. RANGEL  
CHAIRMAN

May 16, 2008

Raysa Castillo, Esq.  
President  
Dominican Bar Association  
800 Riverside Drive, Suite 1A  
New York, NY 10032

Dear Ms. Castillo,

Thank you for your invitation and congratulations in organizing your Fifth Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance being held on Thursday, May 22, 2008 at the Manhattan Club. For over 25 years, your organization has providing the Dominican Legal Community in my district with support systems and services to ease the transition of Dominican Attorneys to practice in our great State and advance the interests of those Dominican attorneys already practicing law within the State of New York. I am pleased of the sacred work that you and your staff accomplish everyday to aid in the advancement of the ever-growing Dominican Legal Community.

While I would very much like to join you, I deeply regret that my legislative schedule in Washington will prevent me from being with you. Needless to say, I sincerely appreciate your dedication and commitment in scheduling such an extraordinary affair. My Community Representative, Socrates Solano, will attend on my behalf to deliver a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition.

Since its creation, 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, mentoring law students, providing scholarships, and actively participating in judicial screening panels. Many have benefited from the Dominican Bar Association and it is quite evident that all the services provided by such an outstanding organization is guided by a philosophy of continuous quality improvement for the lives of all Dominican Americans. While much has been accomplished, there remains additional room for growth. In the year to come, I look forward in witnessing DBA's continued success in aggressively promoting the legal interests of the Dominican community locally and nationwide.

It is my honor to congratulate the newly appointed Justice of the Appellate Division, First Judicial Department, Justice Rolando Acosta along with Josefa Sicard-Mirabal, Esq., Jaime Mercado, Esq., and Ramona Romero, Esq. Each has been significant partners in the overall improvement of the quality of life for all Dominican-Americans.

I salute the organizing committee and members of your board for its efforts in coordinating the Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance where members of your crusade will publicly be acknowledge and up-and-coming law students will receive the necessary resources needed to complete there law education. Again, thank you for the invitation and please know that you can continue to count on my strong support.

As member of the United States Congress, I extend my best wishes for an enjoyable event.

Sincerely,

Charles B. Rangel  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means

CBR/sss



*State Senator Eric T. Schneiderman*

Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to congratulate President Raysa Castillo, members of the Association, tonight's honorees, supporters and friends on the occasion of the Dominican Bar Association's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance. Over the last 6 years, I have been proud to work alongside with many of your members. They are leaders in the community, and their devotion and dedication to justice and the expansion of civil rights and liberties is an example to us all. My State Senate district has a significant Dominican-American population, and I look to the members of the Dominican Bar Association and other Dominican leaders for guidance. I am grateful for their assistance in tackling the problems facing our district, and New York State as a whole.

**Congratulations to honorees:**

*Justice Rolando T. Acosta,*

*Jaime Mercado, Esq.,*

*Ramona Romero, Esq.,*

*&*

*the Dominican Bar Association on their  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance.*

Enjoy the party!



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ADRIANO ESPAILLAT  
Assemblymember 72<sup>nd</sup> District  
New York County

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Suite A  
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May 2008

I congratulate Ms. Raysa Castillo, Esq., President of the Dominican Bar Association, it's board of directors and this year's honorees; the Honorable Justice Rolando Acosta, Josefa Sicard-Mirabal, Esq., Jaime Mercado, Esq., and Ramona Romero, Esq., for their success in the legal profession and advocacy in this important field for all New Yorkers. I especially want to acknowledge the President of the Dominican Bar Association, Ms. Raysa Castillo, Esq. for her many years of community service as a practicing attorney in both the public and private sectors. Ms. Castillo has a well-documented history of legal advocacy for immigrants, election reform, and women's rights. As a leader of the Dominican Women's Caucus, she has been at the forefront of the fight for a greater presence of women in government and the private sector's boardrooms.

The Dominican Bar Association has continuously demonstrated a tireless commitment to further the legal interests of Latinos, Dominicans, and other minorities by furthering the recruitment and retention of traditionally excluded groups in U.S. law schools, the courtroom and government. The Association has also provided students with mentoring, scholarships and other academically oriented assistance. The Dominican Bar Association has fought to safeguard the civil rights of Dominicans, Latinos, and other disenfranchised communities and successfully empowered them to fully participate in the electoral and judicial selection process.

I extend to everyone on this special occasion my sincerest thanks and best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,

Adriano Espaillat  
Assembly Member, 72<sup>nd</sup> A.D



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ALBANY

JOSÉ R. PERALTA  
Assemblyman 39<sup>th</sup> District

82-11 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 709A  
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Fax (718) 458-0855

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(518) 455-4567  
Fax (518) 455-5375

CHAIR  
Subcommittee on  
Banking in Underserved Communities

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Legislative Caucus

May 12, 2008

Raysa Castillo  
President  
Dominican Bar Association  
PO Box 203  
New York, NY 10013




Dear President Castillo,

Once again, it gives me great pride to congratulate you and the Dominican Bar Association on the celebration of your 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance at the Manhattan Club. The Dominican Bar Association has progressed in leaps and bounds, and has been leading the way increasing opportunities for Latino attorneys in the legal profession.

The Dominican Bar Association has also partnered with bar associations, government agencies and community groups to foster greater participation by Dominican and Latino communities in the US legal system. To this end, they have safeguarded the civil rights of the Dominican and Latino communities empowering them to fully participate in American society.

I commend the Dominican Bar Association for their hard work and dedication, and I congratulate all of this year's honorees.

Sincerely,

  
Jose R. Peralta  
NYS Assemblyman  
District 39, Queens

JP/yl





THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN



May 22, 2008

Dear Friends,

It's a privilege to extend my warmest personal greetings to all gathered for the Dominican Bar Association's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance.

Since it's inception, the Dominican Bar Association has worked to foster the professional growth of Dominican American attorneys and has been an advocate for people across New York City and New York State. I want to take this opportunity to recognize the honorees: Justice Rolando Acosta, Josefa Sicard-Mirabal, Jaime Mercado and Ramona Romero. They are truly deserving of this honor.

Congratulations on another year of outstanding work. I look forward to working with you in your efforts to provide vital services to the Dominican community across New York.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott M. Stringer".

Scott M. Stringer

MUNICIPAL BUILDING ♦ 1 CENTRE STREET ♦ NEW YORK, NY 10007  
PHONE (212) 669-8300 FAX (212) 669-4305  
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**MIGUEL MARTINEZ**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 10<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT

o DISTRICT OFFICE  
601 WEST 174<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10033  
(917) 521-2616  
FAX (917) 521-1293

o CITY HALL OFFICE  
250 BROADWAY, ROOM 1763  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
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May 22, 2008

Dear Board Members & Honorees,

I write with great enthusiasm to congratulate the Dominican Bar Association in its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Scholarship Dinner/ Dance. The Dominican Bar Association has demonstrated a commitment to furthering the legal interests of all Latinos and Dominicans in all facets of the community. Your efforts of providing pro bono legal clinics for members of the public, assisting law students by providing scholarships and mentoring which are greatly needed in our Latino communities.

As City Council Member of Washington Heights, Inwood and Marble Hill in City Council District 10 I am proud and honored by the services you provide to the Dominican community and look forward to continue working closely with the Dominican Bar Association in years to come. Again, congratulations to the association and your honorees Honorable Rolando Acosta, Josefa Sicard-Mirabal, Esq., Jaime Mercado, Esq. and Ramona Romero, Esq.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miguel Martínez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miguel Martínez  
Council Member, 10<sup>th</sup> District



## 5th ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER DANCE PROGRAM

MAY 22, 2008

MASTER OF CEREMONIES..... VANESSA PEREZ

AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM..... CRYSTAL BAEZ

DOMINICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM..... SOBEYDA BAEZ

WELCOME..... RAYSA CASTILLO  
PRESIDENT

PROCLAMATION..... HON. MIGUEL MARTINEZ

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO HONOREES

HONOREE HON. ROLANDO ACOSTA..... HON. MANUEL MENDEZ  
*JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION*

HONOREE RAMONA ROMERO, ESQ..... DENISE DOMINGUEZ  
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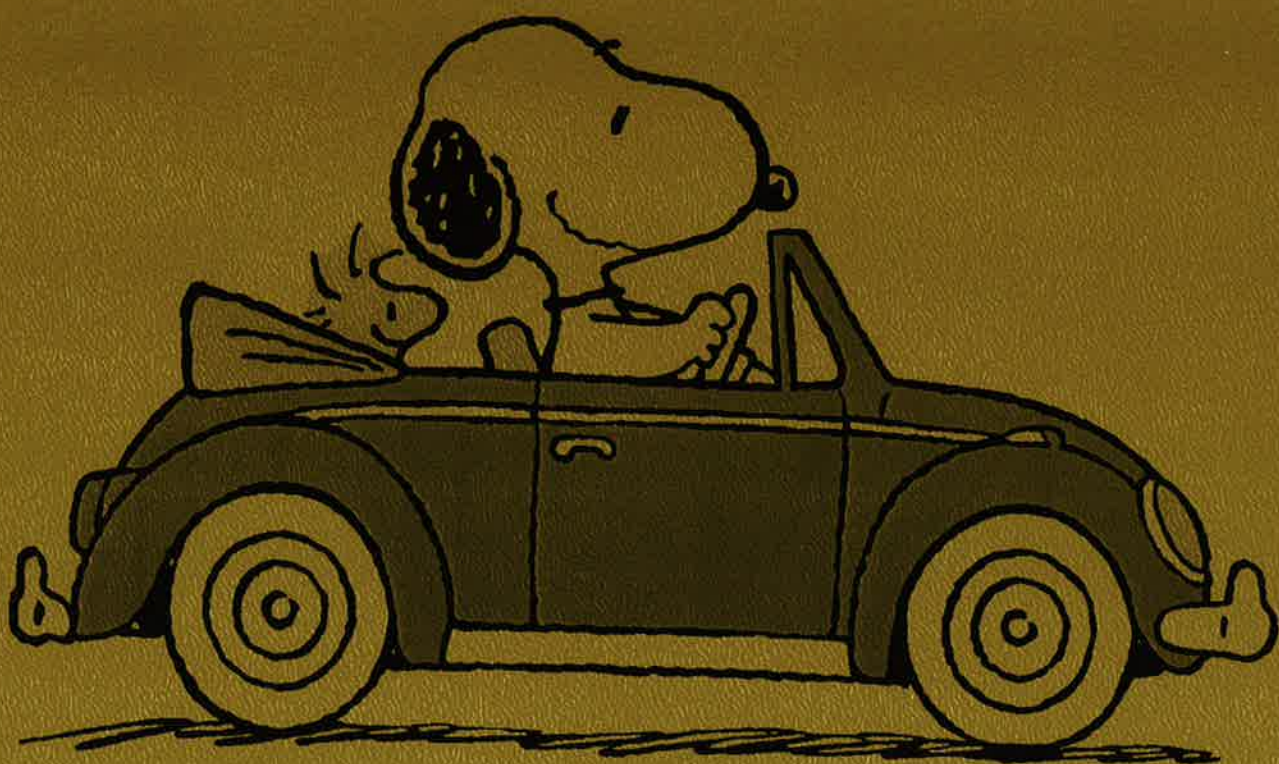
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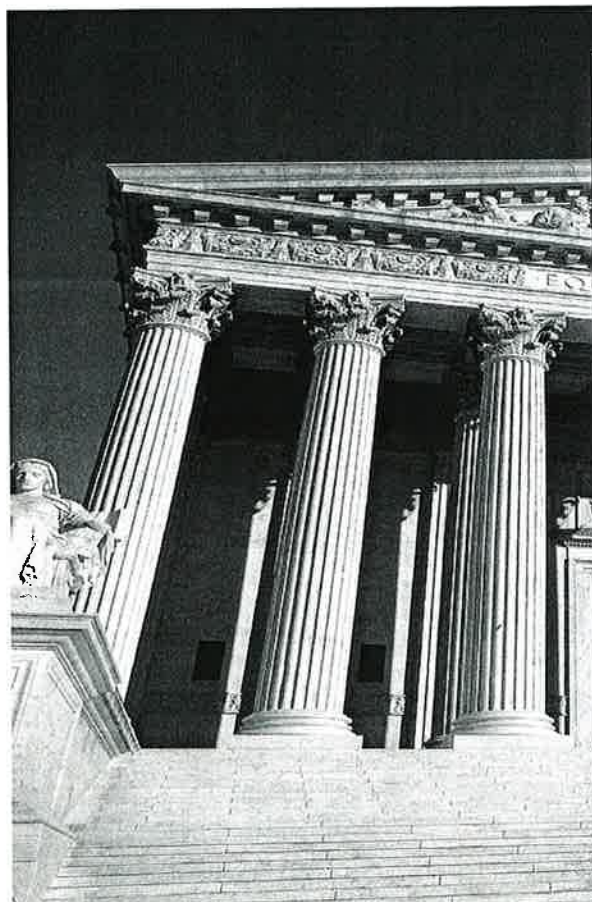
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*The Annual Scholarship Dinner is an opportunity for old friends to reacquaint and for new friends to be made. I thank all our friends, old and new. Your contributions advance the goals and hopes of this organization. I also thank you in advance for your continued support in the future because without it, the DBA is greatly hindered. See you next year!*

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