

17th Annual Scholarship Gala

*Nuestra Comunidad,
Nuestro Legado!*

Saturday
September 19, 2020
7:00pm

The Dominican Bar Association
2020 Journal



2020 DBA GALA SPONSORS



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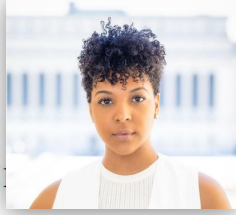
CEDENO LAW GROUP, PLLC
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RODRIGUEZ

BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT ATTORNEYS



2020 DBA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Bienvenidos to the 17th Annual Scholarship Gala – *Nuestra Comunidad. Nuestro Legado!* Today we celebrate and honor the brilliance and legacy within our diaspora. Thank you to our sponsors, supporters, family and friends for your continued commitment to the Dominican Bar Association! Your support is truly invaluable. A special thank you to our keynote speaker, the honorable Letitia James, for your fearless leadership as Attorney General of New York.

I believe I speak for everyone when I say that 2020 has been one of the toughest years this generation, and this world, has ever faced. The global pandemic combined with the current social justice climate has shaken the foundation of our lives and our governmental structures. Particularly in the Latino and Black communities. When I started my tenure as DBA President, I prayed for an unforgettable year; however, as the saying goes, “be careful what you wish for” - because this year has been *truly* unforgettable, in ways that I could have never imagined. Nevertheless, despite the challenges we have faced as an organization this year, I am so proud of what our board has been able to accomplish. A testament to my belief that God gives his toughest battles to his strongest soldiers.

I commend the DBA officers for facing the challenges of Covid-19 head on. We quickly pivoted to the virtual platform and set the bar for others to follow. Our focus has been centered on helping *nuestra comunidad*, addressing pressing social justice issues, and continuing to grow our organization. This year we managed to host over forty legal and community programs, addressing a variety of topics, including: police reform, the 2020 census, voting rights, and wellness. As an organization, we raised over \$40,000 to help those in dire need and fulfill our mission to provide scholarships to students in our community.

When it was time to create our annual theme, I thought about my life experience as an Afro-Latina born in the Bronx and raised in the Dominican Republic. I thought about the needs of our community and what my leadership would represent. I promised our members that I


would not be silent when faced with injustice and that I would support and empower our membership. I thought about the importance of community, and how giving back to that community is the most important legacy you leave behind. *Nuestra Comunidad, Nuestro Legado!* was the result of those many thoughts and promises. I would be lying if I said it was easy, but the critical fight for change, for justice, for fairness, for equality, and for empowerment, kept me going. You see the work we do as an organization of lawyers, but it's not really about us as lawyers. It's about those that look like us who don't have a voice and the fact that as lawyers we can be that voice for our community. When I decided to run again, I did so because the fight is not over. The DBA is an outstanding organization that is constantly growing and adapting, and an organization that at its core has the hunger to give back. And for that, I will always say, *Presente!*

Congratulations to the 2020 scholarship recipients – Jeremy Garcia, Virginia Thomas, Alex Cruz-Rodriguez, Shahily Negron, Joel Ferreira, and Richard Samboy Pena. You are all rising stars and the legal profession will be lucky to have you!

Congratulations to our 2020 honorees – LatinoJustice PRLDEF, Nurys De Oleo, and Judge Vernon Broderick! Thank you for your remarkable work and for paving the way.

To my board, all 14 of you, I appreciate you so much. Thank you for ALWAYS having my back. And a special thank you to my family, friends and former DBA presidents Vianny and Miguelina, you keep me grounded. I love you all!

I look forward to continuing to lead the DBA and our community.

In service,

Doralyn De Dios

2020 DBA GALA

- I. Introduction
- II. Tribute to COVID-19
Victims and #BLM
- III. Scholarship Recipients
- IV. Honorees
- V. Keynote Speaker
- VI. Closings Remarks



QUIENES SOMOS

The Dominican Bar Association (The DBA)

is an incorporated, non-profit, association which seeks to assist, support and elevate Dominican American, native Dominican and Latino attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students in the United States and the Dominican Republic.

Formally founded in New York City in the 1990's as The American Society of Dominican Attorneys, The DBA has grown exponentially and encourages all Latino attorneys, as well as others within the profession, who subscribe to the goals and philosophy of The DBA to become members.

Our Mission

Among The Dominican Bar Association's many purposes are some of the following:

To support and assist members of the legal profession, specifically Latino attorneys and law students, particularly attorneys and law students of Dominican ancestry, in elevation to higher posts in all facets of influence.

To support and assist members of the legal profession who are interested and committed to improving the Latino community, specifically, the Dominican community and the Dominican legal community.

To encourage potential law students of Dominican ancestry to strive for the betterment of their individual lives and pursue a profession, preferably in the pursuit of a law degree, and to provide assistance to such students after their admission to law schools.

To support Latino jurists, and specifically Dominican jurists, to act as positive role models for our young people in and out of schools.

To encourage, advise and assist graduates of law schools of the Dominican Republic in their attempts to gain admission to the Bar of a state or states of the United States of America.

To improve public understanding of the function and importance of Latino lawyers, and more specifically, Dominican lawyers and to encourage respect thereof.

To aid the Latino community generally, and in particular, to aid the progress of Dominicans and other minorities.

2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Joel Rafael Ferreira. I'm a Dominican American born and raised in New York City by parents from the Dominican Republic. They emigrated from their native country to chase the American dream and someday provide their future children a better life. Me graduating from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and attending Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center is one of the proudest moments of my life. My parents stressed the importance of an education because of the beckon of hope it represents, the opportunities it unlocks, and the societal effect it has on society - especially with Latinos. My wife and I, as Latinos, have taught my teenage daughter that the time will come in, which she'll have to be the voice of reason within her community. Over the years, I've dedicated my time to missionary trips, soup kitchens for the homeless, and Latino outreach programs. And this has brought me great joy. For this reason, I've decided to dedicate my legal career to helping the less fortunate. I'll become an attorney who truly embodies hope, compassion, and dedication in the court room.



Shay Negron-Falcon was born and raised in Washington Heights and the Bronx. She graduated Hunter College with a major in Sociology and a minor in Psychology. Her law school journey began in 2008 when she studied for the LSAT. She continued to pursue her dream of being an attorney despite the adversity and rejection she faced by not giving up hope. The year 2018 brought dramatic changes to her life. In June 2018, her career as a Firm Administrator had ended when the law firm she had worked for since 2008 closed its doors. Shortly after, in July 2018, RWU School of Law accepted her application. Shay and her son, Xavier, quickly packed their bags and headed north to Rhode Island. She is now a third-year full time law student. She hopes to work as a Public Defender. In addition, she plans on creating a non-profit organization in New Bedford, MA and recently decided to create a non-profit in Dominican Republic honoring her grandfather, Joaquin Guerrero, who reminds her every chance he can that dreams really do come true.



Jeremy A. Garcia. I am a J.D. 2023 Candidate at Penn State Dickinson School of Law. Soy Dominicano, nacido en Santo Domingo, de Padres Santiagueros! I am interested in practicing laws dealing with Capital Markets, specifically in Latin America, while also providing legal services and help to low-income communities, specifically my Washington Heights community. I enjoy volunteering with wherever possible and have done so with many bar groups in New York including DBA and MBBA. I received a B.A., a certificate in Dispute Resolution, and a Masters in Public Administration from CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice. I am the recipient of the 2018 MBBA Member of the Year Award, 2020 Cohort of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity "CLEO" Pre-Law Summer Institute, and a Dean Danielle M. Conway 1L Fellow at Penn State Dickinson. I have 10+ years in the Telecommunications and Security field. I enjoy traveling (pre- COVID), learning new languages—I can converse in Arabic—, a huge Marvel comics Fan #TeamDaredevil, and if it's not apparent orgulloso de ser Dominicano!

2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Virginia Thomas was born and raised in Coney Island, Brooklyn, NY. She graduated with honors from the University of Chicago in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in History. After graduating, Ms. Thomas worked in local NYC government and with nonprofit legal services providers. These experiences provided her with unique insight into the systematic changes that are required for sustainable change in the lives of NYC's most vulnerable communities. In 2019, while working at the NYC Commission on Human Rights, Ms. Thomas was a part of the team that developed the legal guidance that expanded the NYC Human Rights Law to protect the rights of New Yorkers to maintain their natural hair or hairstyles that are closely associated with their racial, ethnic or cultural identities. This legal guidance initiated the

CROWN Act in states across the country. Encouraged by this experience, Ms. Thomas, an Afro-Latina, reflected on the shared experiences of the African diasporic community and she wants to create legal protections that promote racial equity. This fall, Ms. Thomas will begin her legal career at Harvard Law School. After law school, Ms. Thomas aspires to clerk for a federal judge and thereafter continue to work in the public sector.

Alex Cruz-Rodriguez was born in Miami, Florida. His family moved back to Dominican Republic before he turned one. He was raised in La Vega, where he attended school before returning to the U.S. for his senior year of high school in Rhode Island. After graduation, Alex moved to Atlanta, GA to attend Emory University. He majored in International Studies and was an active member of the community. He spearheaded the creation of the first Latino-focused commencement ceremony at Emory University. In addition, along with the Latino Student Organization's leadership, he devised the institutionalization of a need/merit scholarship for incoming Latino students.

Before attending BU Law, Alex worked as a paralegal in Atlanta for 4 years at several law firms. He was a Diversity Committee member and organized activities for Hispanic Heritage Month, including identity discussions and movie viewings. In law school, Alex is an active member of LALSA and has mentored Latino 1Ls. Alex is now a 3L aiming to join the legal community in New York City after graduation. He is thrilled about becoming a more active member of the Dominican Bar Association and is thankful for the work of its leaders and members.



2020 SANTANA RODRIGUEZ SCHOLARSHIP

Richard Samboy is currently a 3L at the George Washington University Law School. Richard is the first in his family to graduate from college. He was raised in the Bronx by a single mother who immigrated to the United States from the Dominican Republic. Out of necessity, Richard worked full-time as a litigation paralegal while attending John Jay College as a full-time student. He is currently an Article's Editor for the Federal Circuit Bar Journal and is an intern for the Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland. This past summer, Richard interned at the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Justice.



Richard is passionate about helping first-generation and low-income professionals. At the George Washington University Law School, Richard is the Vice President of Student Enrichment Services. He is responsible for coordinating the Student Bar Association's institutional advocacy efforts on behalf of underrepresented students. In this role, Richard oversees the Directors of Diversity and Inclusion and Disability Services. The American Bar Association recently awarded George Washington Law School's Student Bar Association the 2020 Dean Henry J. Ramsey, Jr. Diversity Award because of their diversity efforts. After law school, Richard hopes to become a federal prosecutor and continue his community activism.

This year, the DBA created a scholarship in memory of Santa Rodriguez, mother of Judge Julio Rodriguez. Thank you to the Rodriguez family for your generosity.

2020 DBA OFFICER INSTALLATION CEREMONY



Latino Justice PRLDEF

LatinoJustice PRLDEF is a national not-for-profit Latino civil rights legal defense fund serving a Latino constituency. Since being formed in 1972 as the Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund, the organization played a key role in the installation of bilingual education in New York City schools, and soon became the most important legal advocacy group for Puerto Ricans in the U.S. mainland. The group became known for the part it played in redistricting battles, for its opposition to civil service exams it thought discriminatory, and for its attempts to combat anti-Latino sentiment especially as arising from the debate over immigration to the U.S. It changed its name to the current one in 2008 in order to reflect demographic shifts in the Latino population in New York and elsewhere.



LatinoJustice has worked to create a more just society by using and challenging the rule of law to secure transformative, equitable and accessible justice, by empowering our community and by fostering leadership through advocacy and education. LatinoJustice PRLDEF engages in impact litigation, legal advocacy, community engagement, and legal pipeline education programs. LatinoJustice work is currently focused on five pillars: criminal justice reform; economic justice; immigrants' rights; voting rights; and leadership development.

The Honorable Justice Vernon S. Broderick

Justice Broderick was born in 1963, in New York City. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1985 from Yale University. He received his Juris Doctor in 1988 from Harvard Law School. He began his career at the law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP from 1988 to 1994.

He served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York from 1994 to 2002 and was Chief of the Violent Gangs Unit from 1999 to 2002. Broderick rejoined Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP in 2002 as Counsel, becoming a partner in 2005, concentrating his practice on white collar crimes, regulatory investigations and business litigation. In 2003, he was appointed to the Commission to Combat Police Corruption by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. In 2011, he was appointed to the New York State Commission on Public Integrity by Governor Andrew Cuomo.



In 2013, Justice Broderick was nominated by President Obama to serve as a United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Justice Broderick is Dominican, Puerto Rican and Jamaican. He is the ONLY federal judge of Dominican ancestry in the United States.

Nurys De Oleo

Affectionately known as "La Alcaldesa," Nurys De Oleo, originally from La Romana, has served for decades as an indefatigable advocate, public servant and champion for social justice. After acquiring a law degree in the Dominican Republic, Ms. De Oleo moved to New York in 1982. As she raised her two young daughters, she took on posts at the Dominican Consulate, helped develop various industry and trade organizations, and mentored countless of young professionals in public service and electoral career paths.



For over a decade, Ms. De Oleo served as the Executive Director of the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Economic Development (NMCED), a dynamic non-profit service organization focused on creating workforce development and readiness with ESL, small business training, technology courses for residents, and cultural programming. In addition, Ms. De Oleo has devoted over 15 years aiding children in need in the Dominican Republic, spearheading the all-volunteer non-profit Dominicanos Pro-Ayuda a la Ninez, which supports grassroots anti-poverty efforts throughout the country.

Ms. De Oleo served as Senior Advisor to State Senator Adriano Espaillat, the first member of Congress of Dominican heritage. She also served Senior Advisor to State Senator Marisol Alcántara who was the first woman of Dominican descent to serve in the New York State Senate. Ms. De Oleo currently serves as Senior Advisor to Assembly member Carmen De La Rosa.

She has been recognized by the sovereign government of the Dominican Republic; the New York State Governor and legislature; the New York City Council and the Office of the Mayor, among others. For her, it has been an honor to dedicate her time and effort in ensuring the successful election of the four current elected officials representing the Dominican enclave in Upper Manhattan.

2020 DBA GALA KEYNOTE SPEAKER

NYS ATTORNEY GENERAL LETITIA JAMES



Letitia “Tish” James is the 67th Attorney General for the State of New York. With decades of work, she is an experienced attorney and public servant with a long record of accomplishments. She is the first woman of color to hold statewide office in New York and the first woman to be elected Attorney General.

In 2013, Ms. James was elected Public Advocate for the City of New York and became the first woman of color to hold citywide office. As Public Advocate, Ms. James served as a watchdog over New York City government agencies and as an advocate for the City’s most vulnerable communities. She transformed the Public Advocate’s office to be a formidable engine for change. Her office handled over 32,000 constituent complaints and passed more legislation than all previous Public Advocates combined, including a groundbreaking law that banned questions about salary history from the employment process to address the pervasive gender wage gap. Ms. James successfully took on the gun industry by pushing New York City’s largest pension fund to divest from gun and ammunition retailers.

Prior to serving as Public Advocate, Tish James represented the 35th Council District in Brooklyn in the New York City Council for ten years. As a Council Member, she passed the Safe Housing Act, legislation that forced landlords to improve living conditions for tenants in New York City’s worst buildings. She helped uncover the corruption behind the Office of Payroll Administration’s CityTime contract, a scheme that cost New York City over \$600 million. She also pushed through a revolutionary recycling package that included expanding plastic recycling, a new clothing and textile recycling program, and increased access to recycling in public spaces.

Before her election to the City Council, Tish James served as head of the Brooklyn Regional Office of the New York State Attorney General’s Office. She resolved hundreds of consumer complaints and investigated predatory lenders who preyed on first-time homebuyers. She assisted the Civil Rights Bureau in its investigation of the NYPD’s stop-and-frisk policy and cracked down on firms engaged in deceptive business practices including violations of human rights, environmental laws, and scams targeting immigrants.

Tish James began her career as a public defender at the Legal Aid Society. A proud Brooklynite, she is a graduate of Lehman College and Howard University School of Law.

2020 DBA IN ACTION

LET'S CHAT: POLICE REFORM

JOIN US FOR A MULTI-PART SERIES DISCUSSION WITH VARIOUS EXPERTS ON THE HISTORY, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF POLICING IN AMERICA!

Register on Dominicanbarassociation.org

July 8th at 6:30pm

Moderator	Panelist	Panelist
		
BERNARDA VILLALONA CRIMINAL TRIAL ATTORNEY	ALVIN BRAGG FORMER CHIEF DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR NY AND MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANDIDATE	DEBORAH ARCHER ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL LAW AND CO-FOUNDER DIRECTOR FOR THE CENTER ON RACE, INEQUALITY AND THE LAW

LET'S CHAT: POLICE REFORM

JOIN US FOR A MULTI-PART SERIES DISCUSSION WITH VARIOUS EXPERTS ON THE HISTORY, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF POLICING IN AMERICA!

Register on Dominicanbarassociation.org

July 27th at 6:00pm

LET'S CHAT: POLICE REFORM

Moderator	Panelist	Panelist	Panelist
			
PHIL HAMILTON PARTNER AT HAMILTON I CLARKE LLP	JUMAANE WILLIAMS NYC PUBLIC ADVOCATE	JORGE VASQUEZ ASSOCIATE AT LATINOJUSTICE PILDEF	TYRONE POPE RETIRED NYFD DETECTIVE SQUAD SUPERVISOR


LET'S CHAT: ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT

Register on Dominicanbarassociation.org

AUGUST 6TH at 6:30pm

Moderator	Panelist	Panelist
		
ANGELA FERNANDEZ HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEY	MARITZA PEREZ DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE	SAMY FELIZ BROTHERS OF ALLAN FELIX VICTIM OF POLICE BRUTALITY
		
		BIANCA TYLEK FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JUSTICE 360



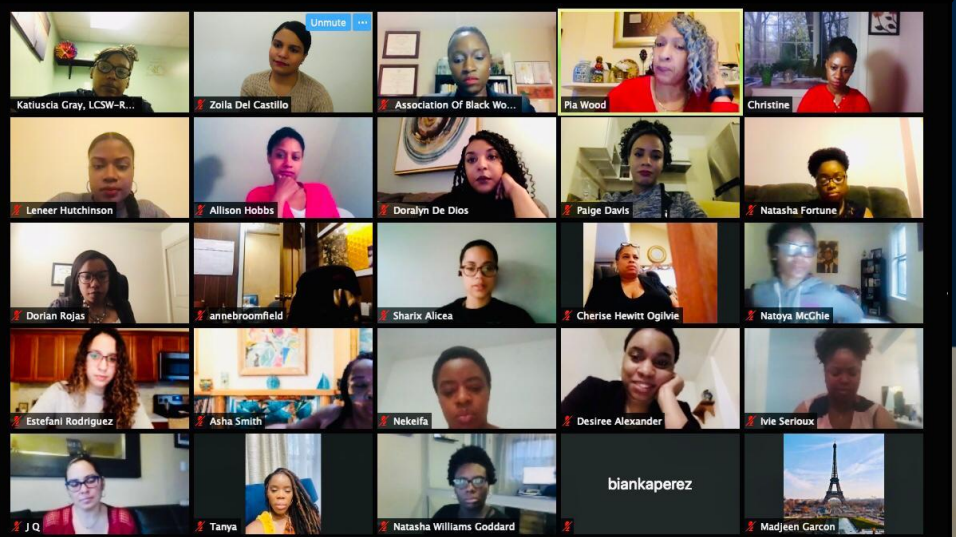


BEYOND THE FACADE

Wednesday April 29, 2020
6PM - 8PM

Join ABWA and DBA, along with panelists Dr. Christine W. Thorpe and Katuscia K. Gray, LCSW, for a discussion on managing stress, mental health, and wealth in diverse families in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESERVE YOUR SEAT ON EVENTBRITE



2020 DBA IN ACTION



2020 DBA ON THE MOVE



DBA GOES VIRTUAL



NYS Senate Joint Virtual Public Hearing
The Unified Court System and COVID-19
Friday, August 21, 2020



LOOKING BACK AT MORE 2020 DBA EVENTS!

Celebrate You!
Quisqueyanos Series

Update your look and style as we celebrate Dominican Independence with an evening of exclusive fashion, beauty and hair tips from three Dominicanas to help us feel gorgeous in our own skin!

Our celebration of Dominican Independence begins with a champagne toast to La Patria Dominicana followed by a conversation with our featured speakers. Women will have the opportunity to shop from CeníaNY's collection and view/participate in hair styling and makeup demos. Networking reception to follow.

27
February 2020
6p. to 9p.
FIT Design
Entrepreneurs
Collaborative

featured guests:

Cenía Paredes
CeníaNY
Fashion Designer

Noelia Mejía
CeníaNY
Curly Hair Enthusiast

Patricia Benson
Elite Lashes
Director
North America, Local and
Cultural Beauty

Sample sale ft. CeníaNY
Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
520 8th Avenue, Suite 1202
New York, NY 10018

**Enhorabuena
WITH THE
DBA**

VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR
Tuesday March 24th
6:30 - 7:30pm

CHEERS!

**Get in the GREEN
thru COVID!**

Name your money drink while we
talk dinero!

.....

**MAY 15, 2020 | 6:30PM
ZOOM**

Enjoy cocktails as you are informed by
the money guru Roxanna McKinney
about how to stay or get in the green
during a pandemic!

**Ellos cuentan
y justed también!**

El Censo 2020 es importante para nuestras
comunidades. ¡Hágase contar!

Únase a DBA, DUSA, LatinoJustice y NMIC en Facebook
para aprender más sobre por qué. ¡No se lo pierda!

DONDE:
www.facebook.com/LatinJustice

CUANDO:
Miércoles, 27 de mayo, a las 2 p.m.

DBA PRESENTS:

**2020 VIRTUAL
GRADUATION
FIESTA**

Invite your family & friends

**VIRGO
VIRTUAL BAR EXAM SUMMIT**

What? 3 days of 20+ virtual bar exam workshops.
Covering everything from exam taking strategies to
developing a passing mindset.

Where? 6/5/20 to 6/7/20

Where? barexamsummit.com

This event is free to all participants!

REGISTER AT
BAREXAMSUMMIT.COM

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Speakers

Laila, Stephen, Vanessa, David, Miriam

**THE ULTIMATE 4TH
PRESENTS:**

**Zoom HIIT
Boxing
Workout**

No equipment needed

**SATURDAY
MAY 16
AT 10:30AM.**

Release stress
Stay Active &
Have fun

ABVA
LIFTING AS WE RISE

**#SWEATWITHSMART
PRESENTS:**

**Zoom HIIT
Workout**

No equipment needed

**SATURDAY
MAY 30
AT 11:30AM.**

Release stress
Stay Active &
Have fun

ABVA
LIFTING AS WE RISE

@dominicanbarassoc

**CROSSFIT TRAINER
PRESENTS:**

Zoom workout

No equipment needed

**SATURDAY
MAY 9TH
AT 10:30AM.**

Let's release stress
Get fit &
Have fun

ABVA
LIFTING AS WE RISE

PROJECT: CLEAN UP YOUR BLOCK

A series of weekly cleanup events in neighborhoods throughout
New York's 13th Congressional District

KICKOFF STARTS THIS WEEKEND!
Meetup Time & Location:
Saturday, Aug. 8th 10am
207th Street & Broadway

Locations:
• 207th Street & Broadway
• Dyckman Street & Broadway
• 181st Street & Broadway
• 181st Street & St. Nicholas Avenue
• 157th Street & Broadway

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS!!!!

Join us! Volunteers needed!
Let's come together to
clean up our streets! Your
community needs you!

To sign up:
Text (212) 497-5959
Or email RSVP.Español@nyc.house.gov

**DBA IS DONATING \$10,000
WORTH OF ESSENTIAL FOODS
TO 900 FAMILIES IN THE
SOUTH BRONX THAT HAVE
BEEN AFFECTED BY COVID-19**

**300 BAGS OF GROCERIES WILL BE
DELIVERED TO NYCHA RESIDENTS,
SENIOR CITIZENS AND LOW-INCOME
IMMIGRANTS IN CITIZENSHIP CLASSES
ON 5/19, 5/26, & 6/2.**

Thank you to our partners:
The Bronx Rising Initiative
Mayor's on one Bronx &
The May Mitchell Center
for making this all possible!

**THE ROAD TO
LAW SCHOOL PANEL**

PANELISTS

Estefani Rodriguez, '12
Dominican Bar Association
Board Member, Attorney
Advisor at the U.S.
Department of Justice

Nakary Abreu
Dominican Bar Association
Board Member, Assistant
Chief Counsel at the Office
of the Principal Legal Advisor

Atencio Gonzalez, '13
Dominican Bar Association
Vice President, Staff
Attorney at NYC
Legal Services

MODERATOR

Jamell Isidor, Dominican
Bar Association President-
Elect, Deputy Director of
ADU Legal Matters at NYC
Department of Buildings

**WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 26, 2020
6:00-7:00 PM**

A powerful lineup of
law professionals and
leaders will offer advice
on navigating the journey
through Law School

RSVP at:
jjay.cc/readtolawschool

For any questions, please contact
alumni@jjay.cuny.edu

**JOHN
JAY
ALUMNI**



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

September 19, 2020

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to the members and guests of the Dominican Bar Association (DBA), as you hold this online celebration of your 16th Annual Scholarship Gala.

The true spirit of unity and concern for one another is reflected in our various communities, especially at this time when we must work together to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. We are also mindful of the profound impact this health crisis is having on our youth and their future growth, development, and well-being. That's why more so than ever before, the work of the DBA is so vital. For the past 16 years, members of the DBA have helped young students realize their educational goals by providing financial support through generous scholarships, as well as encouragement to pursue a career in the law.

While each of us are asked to exercise safety through social distancing, technology thankfully allows you to continue this wonderful yearly tradition, reinforcing your sense of togetherness and purpose. I applaud the Association's leadership for setting this virtual stage that invites your members to celebrate their devotion to the rule of law, and their commitment to the academic success of young scholars.

I am pleased to congratulate your distinguished honorees – Nurys de Oleo, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, and Judge Vernon Broderick – recognized for their excellence in service and invaluable contributions to your community. I also offer my best wishes to all the deserving scholarship awardees as they work to achieve their life aspirations.

With my warmest regards and best wishes to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andrew Cuomo".

ANDREW M. CUOMO

WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE
PERFORMANCE ★ INTEGRITY ★ PRIDE

printed on recycled paper

COMING SOON FROM LATINOJUSTICE

CADA VOTO CUENTA

VOTER PROTECTION APP



Our newly updated voter protection app will help ensure that every voice is heard and every vote is counted this November. If you live in NY, FL, GA or PA, sign up to be a **Cada Voto Cuenta** volunteer at (833) LJP-LTNX. Help us protect the vote this Election Day 2020!



Special thanks to our LatinoJustice Líderes Board for their continued support.



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THE CAPITOL
Albany, NY 12224

LETITIA JAMES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

(518) 776-2000

September 19, 2020

The Dominican Bar Association
Canal Street Station
P.O. Box 203
New York, NY 10013

Dear Friends:

It is truly my pleasure to congratulate the Dominican Bar Association on its 17th Annual Scholarship Gala and to offer a warm welcome to everyone who is participating in tonight's festivities. Your presence, albeit virtually, supports the Association's crucial mission.

Over the years, the Dominican Bar Association has worked tirelessly to ensure that members of the Latino community, not only have access to our justice system, but also the ability to thrive and succeed in the legal profession. In addition to providing vital professional development, sponsoring networking events, and facilitating volunteer and mentorship opportunities; the DBA works to cultivate the next generation of Dominican and Latino attorneys, judges, and law professors. Through its law student scholarship fund, the DBA opens doors for deserving students. I applaud this essential work.

Let me also join you in saluting this year's scholarship recipients. Without question, each of you can take great pride in the hard work, commitment and determination that has earned the recognition of this distinguished organization.

Once again, congratulations to the Dominican Bar Association and best wishes on your Annual Gala. I am sure it will be a memorable event. I wish the Association and all of its members much continued success with your important work.

Warmest Regards.

Sincerely,

LETITIA JAMES





September 17, 2020

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Dominican Bar Association's 17th Annual Scholarship Gala. This event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the next generation of Latino leaders and the meritorious work of dedicated professionals empowering the Latino community at large.

In the three decades since it found, the Dominican Bar Association (DBA) has supported the community by providing legal workshops, scholarships, career information activities, networking opportunities among other services. These initiatives are aimed to further the contributions of the Latino community. As seen in New York, the Dominican American population has made significant strides in every facet of life in New York City, notably within education, government, law enforcement, health, and overall community service and public safety.

At this year's gala, we are recognizing the remarkable contributions of Nurys De Oleo, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, and Judge Vernon Broderick. And we are continuing to support the next class of future law students and legal professionals rising to the ranks of tonight's honorees.

Congratulations to DBA President Doralyn De Dios and all DBA Officers and DBA members for your tremendous efforts in making this event possible! Your work reflects not just strength and exemplary service but also quality of character. May we continue to be inspired and uphold this standard of excellence in the next generation of Latino leaders.

With highest esteem and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adriano Espaillat', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Congressman Adriano Espaillat
United States Congress
New York's 13th Congressional District

HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES
8TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS,
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE INTERNET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM,
HOMELAND SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
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CHAIR



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JEFFRIES.HOUSE.GOV



September 19, 2020

Dear Friends,

Please accept my best wishes upon the occasion of your 17th Annual Scholarship Gala. I am pleased to have this opportunity to acknowledge the Dominican Bar Association (DBA) for its outstanding programming, networking events, volunteer engagement and mentorship opportunities.

Most notably, I commend your efforts to support the Latino community in Brooklyn and beyond through critical services such as pro- bono "Know Your Rights" legal workshops, scholarships and mentorship opportunities for law students, and career information activities for high school students. You have done an outstanding job fulfilling your mission to support current and future Latino members of the legal profession.

As the Representative of the 8th Congressional District, I want to thank you for your service and dedication. Best wishes for a memorable celebration.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES
Member of Congress

SENATOR LUIS R. SEPÚLVEDA
32ND DISTRICT

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Mental Health and Developmental
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Dear Friends,



Welcome to the Dominican Bar Association's 17th Annual Scholarship Gala!

I want to recognize the Dominican Bar Association's resilience and dedication in hosting such an important celebration that commemorates our LatinX leaders' contributions and celebrates the emerging generation of future LatinX attorneys. Legislatively, this year has been transformational, and it could not have happened without the diverse and critical representation infused in the Dominican Bar Association.

As a proud LatinX Senator and one of the two Latinx attorneys in the New York State Legislature, I am thrilled to see all the invaluable contributions that the Dominican Bar Association is making in our communities. By providing legal support, exemplary leadership, and advice to young attorneys, members of the Dominican Bar Association continue to foster tomorrow's leaders. I am proud to see this organization's role and commitment to creating a more diverse judiciary system.

This evening, it is with great delight that I offer my congratulations to the following distinguished honorees - Latino Justice PRLDEF, Nurys De Oleo, and Judge Vernon Broderick. Thank you all for your vital contributions and building a legacy for the next generation of LatinX leaders. I also want to applaud the Dominican Bar Association for recognizing our magnificent law students' academic achievements, Jeremy Garcia, Alex Cruz - Rodriguez, Virginia Thomas, Joel Ferreira, Shahily Negron-Falcon, and Richard Samboy Peña.

Congratulations to the Dominican Bar Association and all the board members! I trust that your vision and wisdom will continue to serve as a standard of excellence for many more years to come.

Best Wishes,

Luis R. Sepúlveda
New York State Senator – 32nd District



CARMEN DE LA ROSA
Assemblymember 72nd District

THE ASSEMBLY
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Legislative Woman's Caucus
Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force



September 19, 2020

Welcome to the Dominican Bar Association's 17th Annual Scholarship Gala!

On this evening, I extend my congratulations to the Dominican Bar Association. I salute you with a warm virtual hug as these trying times forbid us from the traditional and incite us to be as creative as possible as we adapt to this "New Norm."

With much respect and honor, I would like to highlight the association for being a vehicle that offers qualified professional programs and networking opportunities to its members. New York is a diverse State that is fortunate enough to be multiculturally represented. The robust contributions by the Dominican-American population across the state are immeasurable. Whether in public or private law and judicial fields, DBA has paved the way for ushering support for Latinx members of the law profession, particularly of Dominican origin or descent. These individuals who in their pursuit of promotion and advancement in the legal profession and other facets of influence in the United States continue to escalate to different leadership positions are uplifting and empowering the Dominican diaspora nationally.

As a Dominican woman of color, I am proud of the distinct honor to join this virtual gala that worships the efforts and achievements made by an institution in the law industry in our great State of New York and the progress made by its members throughout almost two decades long. I commend the organization for galvanizing financial support through this event to award students in the field with scholarships and stipends that offer so much relief when studying law. As the largest Latinx community in New York City, it lies on us with leadership positions and organizations that focuses on our diaspora to mentor, support, and form new leaders to leave an exemplary and indelible mark on this upcoming generation of Latino descent individuals, who are preparing for a rewarding career in the study and practice of law. Likewise, the well accomplished professionals of law and those emerging who are members of the Dominican Bar Association are now vibrant individuals that through their assertiveness and work-ethic will continue to inspire future generations of leaders in the diaspora and beyond.

This evening, we pay tribute to two grand honorees – Honorable Justice Vernon S. Broderick, a New York City native who has relentlessly taken fights against white collar crimes, police corruption, and has worked to propel public integrity; Nurys De Oleo, an unique trailblazer whose work in the community deservedly so is a lifetime achievement award. Finally, The LatinoJustice PRLDEF, a prestigious organization that for more than 40 years has acted as an advocate against injustices throughout New York and beyond championing civil and human rights victories for the Latix community is notably worthy of the Community Trailblazer distinction.

Congratulations to this year honorees and the DBA for its members, advocacy, mentorship programs, scholarships, and lastly for their firm stamp in field of law across the State. In short, congratulations to the officers and directors of the Dominican Bar Association for their steward leadership and vision to move this organization forward in the lines of thrive and success.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Ca De La Rosa

Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly member (72 A.D)

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Eric Gonzalez
District Attorney

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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September 19, 2020

Dear Friends,

Greetings and best wishes to everyone on the occasion of The Dominican Bar Association's 17th Annual Scholarship Gala, taking place virtually tonight.

Thank you for keeping this great tradition going this year, despite the pandemic. Your support enables The Dominican Bar Association (The DBA) to provide vital services to Latino members of the legal profession, particularly attorneys and law students of Dominican ancestry. The DBA promotes Dominican representation in the judiciary and other leadership roles throughout the legal profession. The DBA also serves the community through initiatives like "Know Your Rights" legal workshops, held in both English and Spanish, and mentoring programs for young people throughout the city of New York.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, The DBA has provided food assistance to vulnerable members of community. And in the wake of the killing of George Floyd, The DBA has spoken out for racial justice, provided forums to discuss much-needed criminal justice reforms, and encouraged its members to join in the struggle for a more just world. I commend the dedicated officers and board members of The DBA for their commitment to justice and equality for all.

Tonight, members and supporters of The DBA gather virtually to recognize one organization and two individuals who have made noteworthy contributions to the Latino community. Congratulations to the evening's honorees, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, the Honorable Vernon Broderick, and Nurys De Oleo, for their unwavering support of The DBA and the Latino legal community. Congratulations as well, to this year's deserving scholarship recipients.

On behalf of the people of Brooklyn, please accept my best wishes for a successful evening and many more years of promoting fairness and justice for all.

Sincerely,

Eric Gonzalez
Brooklyn District Attorney



OFFICE OF THE BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ERIC L. ADAMS
President

August 18, 2020

Doralyn De Dios
President
Dominican Bar Association
Canal Street Station
P.O. Box 203
New York, NY 10013

Dear Ms. De Dios:

Brooklyn has a time-honored tradition of paying tribute to extraordinary individuals and organizations that are dedicated to upholding the law and protecting the rights of our citizens, as well as those who work tirelessly to maintain and strengthen the law, greatly contributing to the betterment of our borough and city. I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to you, the officers, directors, and supporters of the Dominican Bar Association as you gather for the 17th Annual Virtual Scholarship Gala.

The Dominican Bar Association has been steadfastly committed to supporting Latino members of the legal profession, particularly attorneys and law students of Dominican ancestry, in their pursuit of higher posts in the legal profession and other facets of influence in the United States. We applaud the Dominican Bar Association for organizing pro-bono "Know Your Rights" legal workshops for members of the public by providing mentorships and scholarships to law students, and by conducting career information activities for high school students at their schools. We join with you as we honor individuals and organizations that have made meaningfully exceptional contributions to the Latino community and we acclaim the mission of the Dominican Bar Association. The unwavering dedication and support that the Dominican Bar Association has given to our communities is truly preeminent.

On behalf of all 2.6 million Brooklynites, we salute you, President Doralyn De Dios, for the exemplary and steadfast leadership you have shown. We commend the Dominican Bar Association for its ongoing commitment to providing legal services to address the concerns of the Latino community. Furthermore, we congratulate those distinguished individuals who have generously supported the noble mission and work of the Dominican Bar Association through the years. Finally, we thank everyone for helping us move forward together as *One Brooklyn*.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Adams
Brooklyn Borough President



SECTIONS

Business Law Section

Congratulations

The Business Law Section of the New York State Bar Association is a proud supporter of the Dominican Bar Association Virtual Gala and congratulates all of this year's honorees and scholarship recipients!

The New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) has been the voice of the legal profession in New York state for more than 140 years. NYSBA is committed to diversity in its membership, officers, staff, House of Delegates, Executive Committee, Sections and Committees and their respective leaders. Diversity is an inclusive concept, encompassing gender, race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, age and disability. With members in 50 states and over 100 countries worldwide, our membership has grown to over 70,000, and we are excited to see that number climb as we embark on the launch of the Virtual Bar Center in 2020.

The Business Law Section, with a membership of approximately 3,500, is one of the largest Sections of the New York State Bar Association. Its members consist of attorneys whose practice involves some aspect of commerce or finance. Thus, the practice of the members is quite diverse – ranging from securities to banking, bankruptcy to consumer finance, franchising to insurance, among many others. To accommodate this breadth of practice, the Business Law Section has a range of committees that offer the practitioner with business clients information in similarly diverse areas: Bankruptcy; Banking; Business Organizations; Franchise, Distribution and Licensing, Derivatives and Structured Products; Securities Regulation; and the constantly evolving area of Technology and Venture Law. These Committees meet regularly to review current developments in their areas. Members enjoy the benefit of participating in discussions of developments in the business and financial services world and the opportunity to expand their professional network. Attendance at committee meetings and other scheduled Section meetings often can fulfill MCLE requirements.

Join NYSBA and the NYSBA Business Law Section today!

DBA Members will receive a complimentary Business Law Section membership for 2021 (NYSBA Membership is required). Please contact the NYSBA Member Resource Center at: 1-800-582-2452. Enrollment for 2021 begins October 15th.

Join the Business Law Section and become a mentor or mentee in Business Law! Visit [NYSBA.ORG/BUSINESS](https://www.nysba.org/business) for more information.

**It's in the moments of greatest need,
when Dominicans show our best essence.**

COLON & PARTNERS, the first law offices in the Dominican Republic to support the Scholarship Gala, renews its commitment with the Dominican Bar Association and the Dominican community in the United States, and congratulates this year scholarship recipients and gala honorees.

📍 Gral. Frank Felix Miranda No. 34,
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**FULLERTON
BECK LLP**

Fullerton Beck proudly supports the Dominican Bar Association's 17th Annual Scholarship Gala and their work to advance diversity in the legal profession.

**Congratulations to this year's
Honorees and Scholarship Recipients.**

VIANNY PAULINO PICHARDO, ESQ.
2017 DBA PRESIDENT

CONGRATULATES THE
DOMINICAN BAR
ASSOCIATION AND ITS
PRESIDENTA
DORALYN DEDIOS ON ITS
VIRTUAL GALA!

Felicades to the Scholarship Recipients and
Honorees LatinoJustice, Nurys De Oleo and
The Honorable Vernon Broderick



#NuestraComunidadNuestroLegado

THANK YOU!



LatinoJustice PRLDEF
is humbled to receive
the **COMMUNITY
TRAILBLAZER AWARD**
from the **Dominican Bar
Association**. Since 1972,
we've been advocating
to ensure transformative,
equitable and accessible
justice, and are lucky to have
amazing partner organizations
like DBA. Thank you so much!
Learn more at latinojustice.org

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WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE 17TH ANNUAL DOMINICAN BAR ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP GALA AND CONGRATULATE THIS YEAR'S HONOREES AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

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Felicitades to the honorees of the 17th Annual Virtual Scholarship Gala: Latino Justice PRLDEF, Nurys De Oleo (La Matatana) and Judge Vernon Broderick, and to this year's scholarship recipients! It is not surprising that in one of the most difficult times of our lifetime, The Dominican Bar Association has risen to give back to our community more than ever.

I am incredibly proud of the entire board and our
 Presidenta Doralyn De Dios.

May The Dominican Bar Association continue to forge this path of excellence and
 represent nuestra comunidad.

#dbaforever #dbaparasiempre

Con mucho amor,



CAMILO LAW FIRM, P.C.



Thank You For Your Support!

From,
The DBA Family



We the People
We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.
Article I
Section 1
All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.