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the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association
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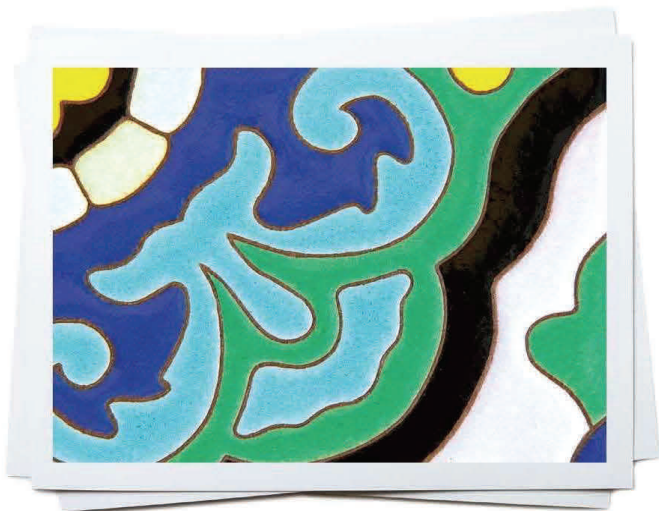


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*San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association
Scholarship Fund
2014 Annual Scholarship Dinner & Gala*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2014
HARD ROCK HOTEL





We are pleased to support
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create a vibrant and welcoming workplace.

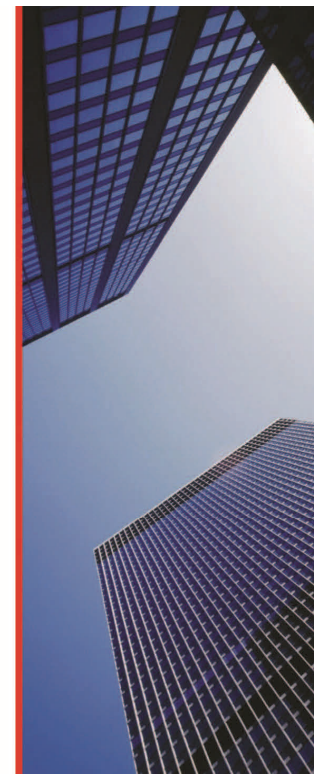
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Rimon PC congratulates
the recipients of the
**2014 SDLRLA
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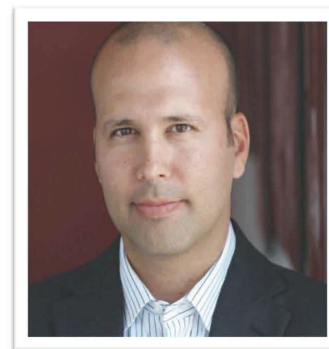
THE CABRERA FIRM A.P.C.

Congratulations to SDLRLA on 35 years of
service to San Diego. Because of your
work, the San Diego legal community is
more diverse and as a result, stronger.

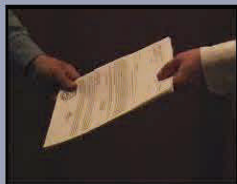
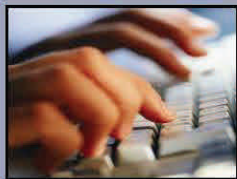
And congratulations to George Aguilar,
Attorney of the Year; Lilia Garcia, SDLRLA
Service Honoree; and the 2014 Scholarship
Recipients!

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Procopio is proud to support the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association in their mission to not just advance the cause of equality, empowerment and justice for Latino attorneys but for the Latino community as a whole through service and advocacy.





You inspire the future.

You believe in the transformational power of a classroom. You light the way for a new generation of Latino students. Your commitment creates the leaders of tomorrow. For your support and dedication for the advancement of Latinos in higher education, we salute you.

Union Bank is proud to support the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association Scholarship Fund Awards Dinner & Gala.

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University of San Diego School of Law thanks the **San Diego La Raza Lawyers Scholarship Fund** for its continuing support of law students.

Congratulations to 2014 USD School of Law recipients Oliver Rodriguez, Jessica Lujan and Andrea Sloboda.



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Celebrating 60 Years of Alumni Success

Congratulations to SDLRLA on receiving the State Bar of California Diversity Award



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San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association Scholarship Fund

2014 Annual Dinner & Gala
Saturday, September 27, 2014
Hard Rock Hotel, San Diego, California

5:30 p.m.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

*

7:00p.m.

DINNER & PROGRAM

*

WELCOME

Adriana Sanchez Ochoa and Jake Romero, 2014 Annual Dinner Co-Chairs

*

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*

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS & AWARDS

Renée Galente, President, SDLRLA, 2013-2014

Presentation of President's Award

*

INVESTITURE OF INCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2014-2015

Hon. Yvonne E. Campos

Superior Court of California

*

SERVICE TO SDLRLA AWARD

Lilia Garcia, Esq., Presented by Renée Galente

*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Edward James Olmos

*

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Presented by Candi Mayes and Jose Castillo

*

ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR AWARD

George Aguilar, Esq.

*

CLOSING REMARKS

Rodrigo Guevara, Incoming President 2014-2015

*

After-Dinner Reception 8:40 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

2014 Gala Sponsors

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SDLRLA endorses Mayor Filner who wins but the victory is short-lived after he resigns. SDLRLA hosts and organizes another mayoral debate for the City of San Diego soon after. Again, all leading candidates participate.

2014- SDLRLA and Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association partner with San Diego Police Chief Shelley Zimmerman in condemning racial profiling by police. The public service announcement is the result of an outreach effort by these organizations to persuade Zimmerman to work with them to find constructive ways to tell San Diegans how to report questionable contacts with police. "Many members of our communities are suspicious of the police and don't feel anything will happen if they do report questionable treatment," said Renee Galente, president at the time. The video is widely publicized and can be seen in English and Spanish.

2014 – SDLRLA boasts over 225 attorney members and a mailing list of over 800 supporters and colleagues!

The party is over – but our work continues!

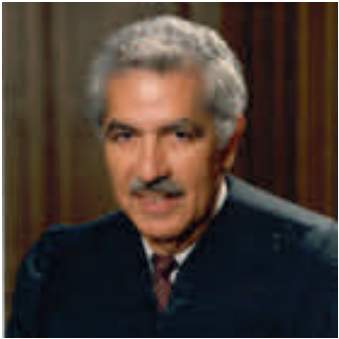
The San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association Scholarship Fund has awarded the scholarships for 2014 to some very dedicated and inspiring law students, but our mission goes on and we would like to remind you that we will be continuing to accept donations throughout the coming year.

The SDLRLA Scholarship Fund is an independent, non-profit corporation created by the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association to carry out educational and scholarship activities. The SDLRLA Scholarship Fund scholarships are not limited to persons of a Latino/Latina background, instead the scholarships are awarded to law students from a variety of backgrounds who have contributed to the betterment of the Latino community. The recipients of the scholarships are law students who have met criteria of community service, financial need, hardship and academic achievement.

The SDLRLA Scholarship Fund is qualified as a charitable, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (Tax ID #20-8553848), and as 2014 draws to a close, it is time to think about getting that charitable contribution in so you can claim a tax deduction for this year. Putting San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association Scholarship Fund on your year-end giving list is a great way to show your support for the hardworking efforts of scholars and future leaders of the legal profession who have made a commitment to the betterment of the Latino community. For more information regarding donations to the SDLRLA Scholarship Fund and additional sponsorship opportunities, please contact Nadia P. Bermudez at: nbermudez@ghslblaw.com or visit us online at: www.sdlrla.com/scholarship/

The organization started in the late 1990s and reignited in 2006 in response to laws and issues targeting minority communities in North County, including anti-illegal immigrant rallies, Vista's day labor law and Escondido's controversial rental law barring landlords from renting to illegal immigrants.

2011--SDLRLA Scholarship Fund begins providing scholarships for prospective Bar Examination takers.



2011 - San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association presents its first Legacy Award, recognizing **Hon. Federico Castro** (ret.). Judge Federico Castro is an advocate, jurist and mentor in the Latino community. He graduated from the School of Business Administration at the University of California at Berkeley and from USD School of Law. A 1987

appointment by Governor George Deukmejian, Judge Castro formerly was a partner in private practice, pursuing the same family law specialty that he later followed on the bench. He previously had served two years with the City Attorney's office. Throughout his legal career, he advocated for Latinos in higher education and in the advancement of professional minorities.

2011 - Marcella Ordorica McLaughlin is voted President-Elect of the San Diego County Bar Association, the first Latina to become president of the SDCBA.

2011 - Sisters **Nadia Bermudez** (elected in 2011) and **Eran Bermudez** (elected in 2012) become the first siblings to serve as president of SDLRLA. They serve back to back terms.

2013 - SDLRLA organizes and hosts a mayoral debate for the City of San Diego. All four candidates participate in the debate with an audience of hundreds at the Shiley Theater at University of San Diego. The focus of the event is on the policy impact of Latinos.

2014 - SDLRLA hosts and organizes a District Attorney forum for candidates for DA. Again, all leading candidates participate with hundreds of attendees.

2014 Individual Contributions

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Programs sponsored by Knox Services

Thank you to all our sponsors and supporters!

President's Message



"You're going to work harder here than you've ever worked anywhere else. And the only thing I ask from you is ganas. Desire." – Jaime Escalante, Stand and Deliver

This organization, which began with 12 attorneys and which has grown to approximately 250, stands for equality, empowerment and justice through service and advocacy. SDLRLA has ganas. And we work hard to put it into action:

2013-2014 saw SDLRLA hosting a Mayoral Forum and a District Attorney Forum, both held at USD's Shiley Theatre and each with over 400 attendees. The purpose was to

educate the community on the positions of the candidates so that the voters could make an informed decision when voting.

As 2014 was an election year, our Endorsement Committee was busy fielding requests from candidates ranging from attorneys running for local legal organizations to candidates for judge, District Attorney of San Diego and Mayor of San Diego and Chula Vista.

We hosted our 7th Annual Judicial Reception, honoring long-time supporter Magistrate Judge Ruben Brooks.

The SDLRLA Apparel and Merchandise Store opened. All SDLRLA supporters can now buy SDLRLA logo'd gear. A percentage of the sales goes to supporting the organization.

We presented our first Latino Professional Advancement MCLE, "Legal Success: The Latino Experience" the first in a growing program focused on issues which are unique to our membership.

We had a strong year of advocacy in the community. SDLRLA was one of thirty nine organizations that asked SDPD Chief Lansdowne to encourage SDPD to not stop at collecting data for vehicle stops, but for all stops.

SDLRLA was one of eleven organizations to sign on to a formal complaint against the County of San Diego Department of Probation about the excessive use of pepper spray in San Diego Juvenile Detention Facilities.



Picture of the first LRLA scholarship fund board on Nov. 30, 2006 taken at the conclusion of the 1st Board meeting of the scholarship fund Board. Left to Rt. Pablo Palomino, Juan Zuniga, Alex Balvaneda, Lilia Garcia, Victor Nunez, Virginia Calderon, Rogelio Quesada,

and Miguel Vasquez.

2006-Deputy District Attorney Roderick Shelton and private attorney Larry Kincaid are candidates for judge to replace Judge Joe Littlejohn, who retired.

Kincaid, a former sheriff's deputy, runs a troubling campaign, which was reported by the local newspaper: "Kincaid wrote that Shelton is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union and La Raza. Shelton said he is not a member of the ACLU. While he is a member of the La Raza Lawyers Association, Shelton said he is not a member of La Raza. The National Council of La Raza is the self-described largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States. The San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association is a bar association that seeks to promote "equality, empowerment and justice for Latino attorneys and the Latino community," the association's Web site states." Shelton is elected Superior Court Judge.

2007 – SDLRLA revives its Attorney of the Year award, recognizing **John Gomez** for his successful personal injury trial victories and community service.

2007 – SDLRLA hosts its first Judiciary Reception, with honored guest California Supreme Court Justice Carlos Moreno. The event is organized by **Eran Bermudez** and held at her office at the time, Best Best & Krieger, LLP.

2009-El Grupo, a North County-based umbrella group of local civil rights organizations, names **Victor Torres** as its new spokesman.

2002 – Past-President **Alvin Gomez**, a successful civil litigation attorney, runs for an open judicial seat for San Diego County. He is defeated by police legal adviser Michael Smyth.

2004 – Attorney **Michael Aguirre** is elected City Attorney for San Diego.

2005-Photo taken by **Victor Nunez** in the Summer of 2005 in East County during SDLRLA's Legal Observer Program. **Carlos Varela** was president that year. In summer of 2005, the Minutemen announced they would patrol the East County border



between Mexico and the U.S. to look for undocumented persons crossing the Mexican border into the U.S. SDLRLA, together with ACLU and CRLA formed the Legal Observer Program. Our purpose was to monitor the Minutemen to ensure

the human rights of undocumented persons were not violated. The Minutemen were watching for undocumented persons, and we were watching the Minutemen. The individuals, from left to right are LRLA members: **Lilia Garcia, Claudia Smith (CRLA), Alex Balvaneda, [friend of Claudia Smith], Vince Lopez, Carlos Varela, and John McNutt**. Other LRLA members who participated, but are not in the photo were **Linda Brown and Victor Torres**. Husband and wife, Victor Nunez (elected in 2003) and Lilia Garcia (elected in 2005) become the first married couple to serve as president of SDLRLA.

2005 - A separate entity and 501(c)(3) the San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association Scholarship Fund was created and incorporated. Corporate attorney **Juan Zuniga** serves as its founding president.

The Community Service and Outreach Committee attended Fiesta Del Sol in order to provide answers to basic legal questions and to provide referrals to the appropriate legal organizations.

And because sometimes you need time to relax with a friend or build your network, we hosted socials including our Annual Holiday Party, Annual Membership Kickoff at Athens Market, our quarterly AMISTADs, and our 2nd Annual Family Picnic where even bad weather



Eric Ganci & Renée Galente with 2014 Bar Stipend Scholarship Honorees

couldn't keep a good crowd down. Congratulations to Daniel Wiedecker who won the spicy salsa contest!

This year we were proud to partner with our colleagues on a variety of programs, mixers and events. Special thanks to Lawyers Club of San Diego, Filipino

American Lawyers of San Diego, Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego, Iranian-American Bar Association, San Diego Lawyer Chapter of the American Constitution Society, MANA de San Diego, National Association of Latino Elected & Appointed Officials, National Association of Women Judges, Couture for a Cause, Juvenile Book Club, and San Diego Magazine.

The San Diego County Bar Association and SDLRLA just unveiled the culmination of an almost-year long project, a joint Career Development Program which just launched.

This innovative course provides a way for new and experienced lawyers to engage with each other in a way that will enrich the careers of all involved.

SDLRLA was proud to work with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office twice this year. First in partnering to provide bilingual education to the community on what the D.A.'s office does, how it can impact the community and why voting for a D.A. is important.



Past-President Lorena Slomanson and Renée Galente

The second was for Project L.E.A.D. (Legal Enrichment and Decision-making), which is a several month long crime prevention program designed to teach fifth graders positive values, self-esteem and other valuable life lessons and which culminates in a mock trial.

SDLRLA and Earl B. Gilliam paired to host Neighborhood Law School featuring workshops every Wednesday for five weeks. These bilingual classes were open to the community and ranged in topics from family law to understanding criminal law, and more.

SDLRLA also teamed up with Earl B. Gilliam to write and film, with the help of our friends at Verdict Videos, two Public Service Announcements featuring SDPD Chief Zimmerman getting the message out to the community that racial profiling and police misconduct would not be tolerated and how to report it if it happens.

These PSAs, in English and Spanish, garnered SDLRLA significant media attention as the release coincided with the event in Ferguson. The video can be found on our website under "Zero Tolerance."

None of this would have been possible but for the work of some incredible volunteers and leaders in San Diego. The Executive Board for 2013-2104 include: Vice President Joanna Solozabal, Treasurer Jesse Blanco, Secretary Eran Bermudez (Past President) and Immediate Past President San Diego Port Commissioner Rafael Castellanos. At Large Board Members include: Francisco Aldana, Lizzette Herrera Castellanos (Past President), Rodrigo Guevara, Lorena Slomanson (Past President), Victor Torres, Claudia Arzaga, Alara Chilton, Maria Nunez, Luis Osuna and Pablo Palomino.

My thanks as well to a hard working group of Committee Chairs, including: Andres Hernandez (AMISTAD Chair), Ben Aguilar and Rafael Hurtado (Community Outreach & Service Co-Chairs),



1994- California Proposition 187 was a ballot initiative to establish a state-run citizenship screening system and prohibit undocumented persons from using health care, public education, and other social services in the state. SDLRLA members were on the frontlines in battleground San Diego to oppose the measure, including **Sergio Feria** and then President **George Aguilar**, who wrote editorials, participated in public forums, and served as spokespersons in opposition to Prop 187. **Sergio Feria** is quoted in the Chronicle: North County's Independent News Journal, stating "It's unenforceable, misguided, not practical, violates existing law, and likely will never take effect. This is misguided, poorly drafted, not well thought out. It just has a whole host of problems." California voters approved the proposition by a wide margin: 59% to 41%. Although Caucasians/Whites comprised 57% of California's population at the time, they comprised 81% of voters in the 1994 general election. Latinos totaled 8% of voters, although they comprised 26% of the state's population.

1997 - San Diego lawyer **Greg Vega** is elected president of the Hispanic National Bar Association. The following year in 1998, he was recommended by Sen. Barbara Boxer to be named **U.S. Attorney** for the Southern District and is confirmed.

2001- SDLRLA began to discuss how to increase the charitable work of the organization. The organization began to give out small scholarships to law students as a way to let the students know that the organization was there for them and supported them. Momentum builds.

that it could continue to further its goals to advance the Latino community through political activity and advocacy.



1982 - The first woman president of SDLRLA, **Elizabeth Franco Bradley**, is elected. A graduate of San Diego College for Women, she earned her J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. She was admitted to the bar in 1978.

Early 1990's - After surviving the '80s, an era where Latinos were commonly ignored for political and judicial appointments, SDLRLA realized that the only way to effect change was to demand change by engaging the political system. This led to the creation of the first political endorsement committee in the early 1990's, a committee which continues to the present.

1992 - **Judge Irma Gonzalez** becomes the first Mexican-American female federal judge. Now retired, she is a former United States federal judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. She was nominated by George H.W. Bush on April 9, 1992 and confirmed on August 11, 1992. She served as the chief judge of the Southern District of California from 2005 to 2012. Prior to her service as a District Court Judge, Gonzalez served as a United States Magistrate Judge from 1984 until 1991. She earned her B.A. from Stanford University and her J.D. from University of Arizona College of Law in 1973.

1993 - SDLRLA endorses both Hon. **Maria Arroyo Tabin** (ret.) head of the criminal division of the U.S. Attorney's office in San Diego as well as another federal prosecutor, **Gregory Vega** for U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California. The position ultimately goes to Alan D. Bersin. At the time, **Sergio Feria**, president of SDLRLA is quoted in the Union-Tribune, stating "Bersin would do a fine job and bring a fresh perspective to the office. Hopefully he'll be able to direct the office's resources to areas that have not gotten resources in the past--white-collar crime abuses by the Border Patrol."

Catherine Arambula (Corporate Sponsorship Chair), George Aguilar (Endorsement Chair), Maigan Wright (CWSL), Jesse Magana (TJSL), Jose Rodriguez (TJSL) and Michael Morpew (USD) (Law Student Committee Co-Chairs), Pablo Palomino and Paula Joachin (Membership Committee Co-Chairs), Rodrigo Guevara and Luis Osuna (Political Affairs Co-Chairs).

A special thank you to San Diego Superior Court Judge Yvonne Campos for her support, guidance and encouragement throughout the year.

Each year it falls to the President to select one person to receive the President's Award. This year, I am proud to honor outgoing Board Member Alara Chilton. Alara is a tireless advocate for SDLRLA and for the community. She merges her passion for both in the programs she has led the past few years as Co-Chair: Neighborhood Law School and Project L.E.A.D. In addition, Alara volunteers in SDLRLA's name with Legal Aid, all while running her own criminal defense and consumer law practice. We will miss Alara on the Board but know that she will remain an active part of the Association.

Tonight we also honor George Aguilar as Attorney of the Year and Lilia Garcia for her Service to SDLRLA on this 35th Anniversary celebration. These attorneys- and more importantly, friends- are two of the giants on whose shoulders we stand. In honoring their work and their leadership, we also honor all those who led this organization so that, tonight, we can celebrate a year of continuing to effectuate positive change.

Finally, we honor YOU. Thank you for supporting SDLRLA. Thank you for giving up a Saturday night to be here with us and to celebrate inclusion, equality and all the good that is yet to come.

"You are the true dreamers, and dreams accomplish wonderful things." - Jaime Escalante, Stand and Deliver

Yours,

Renée Galente
2013-2014 SDLRLA President



Renée Galente with California State Bar President,
Luis Rodriguez



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Hon. Roy B. Cazares	Ruben Arizmendi	Victor Nuñez
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John Jiménez	Luis Aragón	Rafael Castellanos
Manuel L. Ramirez	Alejandro Balvaneda	Renée Galente
Manuel Corrales, Jr.	Lilia Garcia	

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students and fellow attorneys for your
exceptional work and contributions
to our community!



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Timeline

1966 - Hon. Carlos Cazares is admitted to the bar. The oldest of 11 children, Judge Cazares distinguished himself as a trailblazer serving in the Army during the Korean War and later attending college at night through the GI Bill, earning an accounting degree. He subsequently earned a law degree, becoming one of the first Mexican-American lawyers in San Diego County at the time. "When I first became a lawyer, I could count on one hand the number of Mexican-American lawyers in San Diego County," he said during an interview in 1992. "Now there are literally hundreds." In 1972, Gov. Ronald Reagan appointed him to a Municipal Court judgeship and five years later Gov. Jerry Brown appointed him to the Superior Court. His brother Hon. Roy Cazares would join him on the bench a few years later. Hon. Cazares passed away in 2002.

1976 - San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association had its first organizational meeting at the Pioneer Room of the San Diego County Public Law Library. It was then an unincorporated association, made up of approximately 12 attorneys (only about 5 of whom were female). The organization was formed with a desire to effect change in San Diego by representing the interests of the Latino community, identifying issues which involved the Latino community, and advocating for those issues. Presidents of the unincorporated organization were **Hon. Rafael Arreola** followed by **Hon. Roy B. Cazares**. At the time, Hon. Arreola served as the Supervising Attorney, South Bay office, Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc. The first networking function ever thrown by SDLRLA was hosted at the home of **Ramon Castro**, a successful criminal defense attorney and brother of **Hon. Federico Castro**.

1979 - SDLRLA is incorporated as a 501 (c)(6) after a lengthy debate over the new name of the organization. SAN DIEGO LA RAZA LAWYERS ASSOCIATION is chosen over "Chicano Lawyers Association" and "Mexican American Bar Association." The first official president of the organization is **Nick Aguilar**, with other leaders including: Secretary **Henry Baray** and Treasurer **Dan Guevara**. The organization chose to become a 501 (c)(6) so



History of San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association

Fierce Five Founders

Born in Catarina, Jalisco, Mexico, **Judge Rafael Arreola** (ret. 2007) received his J.D. from Stanford University Law School in 1974, and also holds a master's and bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from University of California, Berkeley. Judge Arreola began his judicial career in the Municipal Court in 1981 and then to the Superior Court in 1998. He served as co-founder of the San Diego and California La Raza Lawyers Associations (1975) and co-founder and first president of the California Latino Judges Association (1996).

Hon. Roy B. Cazares earned his J.D. from Harvard University Law School and his undergraduate degree from SDSU. He was admitted to the bar in 1973. Roy Cazares was the first Chicano graduate from SDSU to attend Harvard Law School.

Raymond Mercado earned his J.D. from USD Law School and his undergraduate degree from SDSU. He was admitted to the bar in 1976.

Domingo Quintero earned his J.D. from Western State University and his undergraduate degree from Stanford University. He was admitted to the bar in 1971. Mr. Quintero still practices law in downtown San Diego with the firm of Quintero & Quintero.

Carlos Raul Carriedo earned his J.D. from UC Berkeley Boalt Hall and his undergraduate degree from University of Notre Dame. He was admitted to the bar in 1973. Mr. Quintero still practices law in Bonita, California with the Law Offices of Carlos Carriedo.

Nicholas ("Nick") Aguilar earned his J.D. from UC Davis School of Law, King Hall and his undergraduate degree from UCSD. He was admitted to the bar in 1975. In 1983, Aguilar was appointed to the Sweetwater Union High School District governing board where he served for nine years and in 1992 won a seat on the San Diego County Board of Education for 16 years. Aguilar also won a seat on the Southwestern College board.



*Dependency Legal Group is honored to be
a sponsor of the San Diego La Raza Lawyers
Association Scholarship Fund*

Happy 35th Anniversary!

*We congratulate all of the 2014 scholarship
winners and are very proud to have Maggie
Gaan receive the DLG scholarship award!*

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2014 San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association Scholarship Fund

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Co-Chairs Scholarship Selection Committee

Candi Mayes and Jose Castillo

San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association 2014 Annual Dinner Committee

Adriana Sanchez Ochoa, **Co-Chair**
Jake Romero, **Co-Chair**
Nadia P. Bermudez · Renée Galente
Rodrigo Guevara · Lizzette Herrera Castellanos · Joanna M. Solozabal

SDLRLA welcomes special guests:

Cynthia Mares, Hispanic National Bar Association President (Denver, CO)
Robert Maldonado, Hispanic National Bar Association President (New York, NY)

Special Thank You To...

Special thanks to our sponsors and community supporters. Our event would not have been possible without your support.

(Program drafted and created by Joanna M. Solozabal)

George Aguilar, Esq. 2014 Attorney of the Year



Past President and current Endorsements Committee Chair, George C. Aguilar, is the 2014 SDLRLA Attorney of the Year. Mr. George Aguilar's practice focuses on complex litigation including securities class actions with the firm of Robbins Arroyo LLP. Prior to private practice, Mr. Aguilar was a federal prosecutor for seventeen years with the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Diego, where he prosecuted various crimes, including those relating to drugs, firearms, terrorism, civil rights, white collar crime, and financial institution fraud. Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. Aguilar worked at Morrison Foerster LLP, in San Francisco. When Mr. Aguilar served as President of SDLRLA, he sought to bring attention to various civil rights issues impacting the Latino community. His dedication to the Latino community has been well documented and has inspired a class of lawyers seeking to follow his professional and personal reputation of excellence. In his current role as SDLRLA Endorsements Committee Chair, he brings his experience and wisdom to the SDLRLA Board as an advisor. He is also a past-President of California La Raza Lawyers Association, and has served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Federal Courts Committee of the State Bar of California and Former Chair of the City of San Diego's Citizens Equal Opportunity Commission. Mr. Aguilar received his law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California. While at Boalt, Mr. Aguilar served on the Moot Court Board and as managing editor of the La Raza Law Journal. He received his B.A. from the University of Southern California. It is fitting that his history of service and excellence be recognized at this year's 35th anniversary celebration.

San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association Scholarship Fund

2014 Bar Stipend Recipients

This year, the San Diego La Raza Scholarship Fund awarded bar stipends to outstanding law students in their final year of studies. Each student received a bar stipend in the amount of \$1000 to assist them in their studies and living expenses as they prepared to take the California Bar exam. We are proud to continue this program next year as a result of generous donations from you. In May 2014, the Scholarship Fund awarded bar stipends to:

Veronica Carillo Valle (Thomas Jefferson School of Law)

Monika Langerica (UC Berkeley, Boalt Hall)

Emily Martinez Bettinger (University of San Diego School of Law)

Diana Rodriguez Agiss (California Western School of Law)

Monique Rodriguez (Thomas Jefferson School of Law)

Maigan Wright (California Western School of Law)

Javier Vargas (Thomas Jefferson School of Law)

San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association

2014 Annual Dinner Honorary Committee

Special thanks to the members of the Honorary Committee for your continued support for SDLRLA and the Scholarship Fund. Through your trailblazing achievements and leadership, you have been, and continue to be, a driving force for inspiration in the San Diego Latino community.

Hon. Robert Amador · Hon. James T. Atkins

Hon. Patricia Garcia · Hon. Irma Gonzalez (ret.)

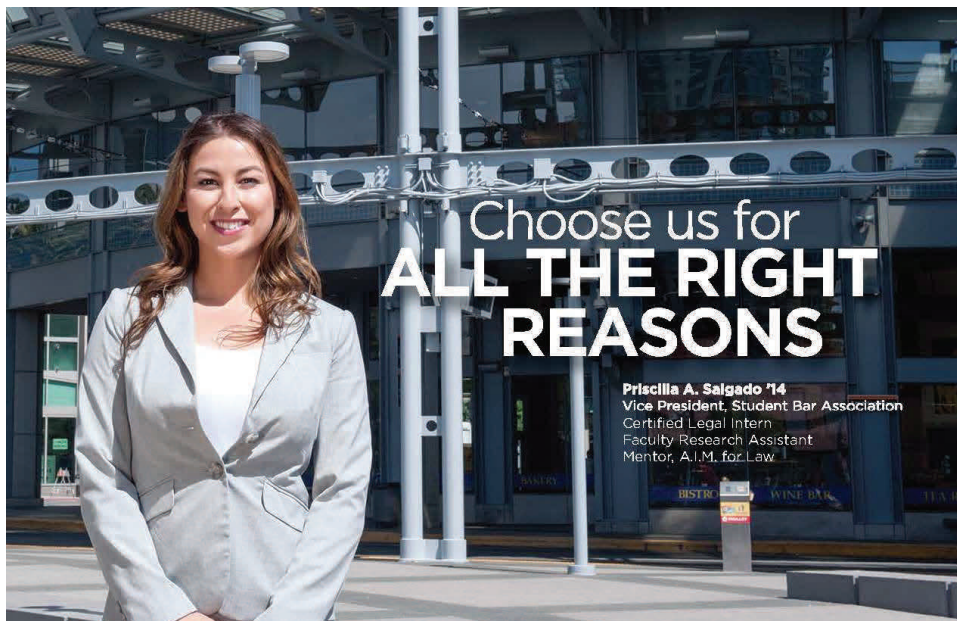
Hon. Pennie McLaughlin · George Aguilar

Eran Bermudez · Nadia Bermudez

Rafael Castellanos, Esq. · Lizzette Herrera Castellanos

Sergio Fera · Lilia Garcia, Esq.

Victor Nunez · Juan E. Zúñiga,



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Lilia Garcia, Esq.
2014 Service to SDLRLA Award



Lilia Garcia has spent 33 years as a lawyer working to advance the cause of equality, empowerment and justice for Latinos and the greater community. During those years, Ms. Garcia has promoted diversity in the legal profession and represented the legal profession with integrity, ethics and exceptional competence. In 2005, Ms. Garcia co-founded Latinas in the Law in order to give young Latina law students and lawyers an informal mentoring program to help them

advance their careers. Today, the organization has grown tremendously and has helped many young Latinas who in turn have become mentors themselves. In 2009, having spent nearly 30 years at the Attorney General's office, she became an early volunteer to help Mexico transition its legal system to one of oral advocacy. Having argued numerous cases in front of the Supreme Court and the Appellate courts, Ms. Garcia knew the importance of equal and fair justice and felt integrity and ethics were vital to impart to a new Rule of Law in Mexico. Ms. Garcia has served on numerous boards and committees aimed at advancing equality. She chaired the Chula Vista Police Department's Citizen Task Force which reviewed police practices and their response to citizens, served on Mayor O'Conner's Latino Advisory Committee, was on the board of the Mexican American Business & Professional Association, was Co-Chair of the Hispanic Employees Advisory Committee to the Attorney General, was on the San Diego County Bar Board's Leadership Outreach Committee, and served as President of the SDLRLA. Ms. Garcia is a Special Assistant at the DA's office.

Andrea Sloboda, University of San Diego School of Law, 1L
Scholarship Award: \$1500.00

Ms. Sloboda was born and raised in the Bay area of California. Her recommender, Professor Cantu, describes her as a “smart, disciplined, responsible, and professional scholar.” Her goal is to practice in corporate regulatory compliance to improve the working and living conditions of Mexican border communities.

Jessica Lujan, University of San Diego School of Law, 2L
Scholarship Award: \$1500.00

Ms. Lujan grew up in the border cities of Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua and El Paso, Texas, crossing the border each day to attend school in Texas. She speaks three languages and has participated in multiple humanitarian relief efforts. Judge Salas-Mendoza, District Judge in El Paso, Texas, states that Ms. Lujan “not only understands life’s struggles but also has empathy for individuals who are struggling. This compassion is a great compliment to her intellectual strengths.” Ms. Lujan’s goal is to become a litigator in the public sector.

Michelle Luna Reynoso, California Western School of Law, 2L
Scholarship Award: \$1500.00

Ms. Reynoso grew up in National City, California. She has volunteered with many community and student organizations promoting human rights issues within immigrant communities. Her recommender described her as “intellectually present, asking intelligent questions, and seeking to learn as much as she could.” Her goal is to become a public interest law attorney in the area of human rights.

Hugo Salazar, Chapman School of Law, 3L
Scholarship Award: \$1000.00

Mr. Salazar was born in Guanajuato, Mexico and migrated to the United States with his family when he was 10 years old. He was a first generation college student and a Fulbright Scholar. As a student at Chapman School of Law he is the current President of the Minority Law Students Association. Dr. Hall stated that Mr. Salazar’s “extraordinary academic achievement, strong work ethic, and ability to overcome adversity convince me that he will achieve great success...” His goal is to help create laws and policies that benefit the Latino and Latina community.

To commemorate the 35th Anniversary of SDLRLA, the Scholarship Fund has awarded \$35,000 in scholarships and bar stipend awards to local law students this year. We still need your help tonight to fund next year’s scholarship program! – SDLRLA Scholarship Fund President, Nadia P. Bermudez

Cristal Ruiz, California Western School of Law, 2-L
SONY Scholarship: \$1000.00

Ms. Ruiz grew up in section-eight housing in the south side of Stockton. She and her four siblings were raised by her mother. Her recommender said that Ms. Ruiz's "considerable accomplishments thus far, especially in light of the obstacles she has overcome, demonstrates an admirable talent and self-motivated drive." According to Ms. Ruiz, the scholarship money will allow her to focus on her studies while volunteering in an unpaid clinical internship with the California Innocence Project.

Maggie Gaan, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, 2L
Dependency Legal Group of San Diego Scholarship: \$1500.00

Ms. Gaan was born and raised in San Mateo, California. She has mentored more than 50 youth in the U.S. and abroad. She wants to be a leader in her community and currently sits on the La Raza Law Students Association Executive Board as the Community Liaison.

Olivia Garcia, California Western School of Law, 1L
Scholarship Award: \$1500.00

Ms. Garcia grew up in San Ysidro, California as one of five children. She obtained her first 'job' in the fourth grade, earning \$5 per week as a tutor to a 6-year old neighbor learning to read. In college she participated in the Mexican Migration Field Research and Training Program. The director of that program stated Ms. Garcia "distinguished herself by her tenacity and drive." Her goal is to become a public interest attorney representing underserved communities.

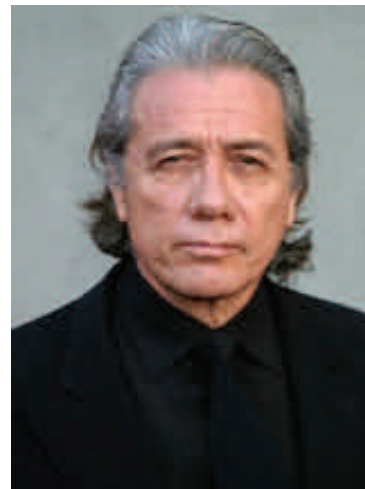
Patricia Ojeda, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, 2L
Scholarship Award: \$1500.00

Ms. Ojeda was born in Escondido and grew up in San Marcos, California. She volunteers with the Escondido Police Department to speak with children in the community about the importance of staying in school and out of street life. Her recommender, Lt. Owens, described her as "a positive role model for children and teens of all races." Her goal is to serve her community and help those who cannot help themselves.

Raul Maravilla, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, 2L
Scholarship Award: \$1500.00

Mr. Maravilla was born and raised in San Diego, California as the youngest of five boys. He was a first generation college student and still presents to classes in the Chicano Studies department of SDSU as a guest speaker. His recommender was "impressed by his attitude toward his work and his performance on the job." Mr. Maravilla's goal is to become a defense attorney practicing immigration law.

Edward James Olmos
2014 Keynote Speaker



Edward James Olmos was born on February 24, 1947 in East Los Angeles, California. His ethnically diverse neighborhood - which he refers to as a "salad bowl" because each culture kept its own unique qualities, blending into a whole without losing its individual flavor - contributed towards his open-mindedness and ability to welcome diversity among people. About the Boyle Heights section of Los Angeles where Eddie grew up, he says, "On our small lane (Cheesbrough's Lane) we had a Hispanic family with thirteen kids, Native Americans, Koreans, Chinese, Mexicans, Russians. It was a fantastic environment." Known for such roles as Lt. Martin Castillo in *Miami Vice*, Jaime Escalante in *Stand and Deliver*, Admiral William Adama in *Battlestar Galactica* and Prof. James Gellar in *Dexter*, just to name a few, Mr. Olmos is also a spokesman and advocate devoted to helping his community. For more than two decades, Edward James Olmos has advocated tirelessly for Latino and Latina communities, but his efforts for social justice transcend racial lines. "I've spent my entire adult life trying to realize how in the world are we ever going to come together when we keep on using the word 'race' as a cultural determinant," said Olmos in a commencement speech in San Diego, California. "There's only one race, and that's the human race. Period." Edward James Olmos has touched our lives as a culture, as a community and as educated people. We welcome him to San Diego as a national treasure and Latino trailblazer!



2014 Scholarship Selection Committee

Candi Mayes, **Co-Chair**

Jose Castillo, **Co-Chair**

Hon. Gonzalo Curiel ▪ Hon. Patricia Guerrero

Hon. Esteban Hernandez ▪ Hon. Ana Espana

Hon. Ruben Brooks

Eran Bermudez ▪ Adriana Sanchez Ochoa

Jake Romero ▪ Angela H. Santamaria

2014 Scholarship Recipients

Jazmin Ramirez, Southwestern Law School, 2-L

Union Bank Scholarship: \$2500.00

Ms. Ramirez grew up in East Los Angeles to the sound of gun shots and helicopters hovering over homes. She is the second in her family to graduate from college, but the first to pursue a post-graduate degree. As an attorney, Ms. Ramirez plans to help minority children overcome the effects of poverty and violence. Her recommender said: "What Ms. Ramirez's story conveys to me is that she has the drive, discipline, intellect, and ability to follow through on her plans."

Oliver Rodriguez, USD School of Law, 1-L (Part-Time)

Union Bank Scholarship: \$2500.00

Mr. Rodriguez was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, and immigrated to the United States as a child, settling in San Diego. He is the first in his family to attend college. This fall, his how-to manual for historically underrepresented students to help them apply to law schools will be published. His recommender stated: "Mr. Rodriguez has demonstrated an ability, and willingness to ensure that students that exist in the lowest rung of the socio-economic ladder have a chance at a better life." Mr. Rodriguez wants to become a children's advocacy lawyer in the public sector and continue his research in education law.

Patricia Mejia, California Western School of Law, 3-L

Mintz Levin Scholarship: \$2500.00

Ms. Mejia was born in El Salvador and immigrated to the United States when she was six years old. Ms. Mejia wants to become a criminal defense attorney to help people of color who face life-changing circumstances, but also to show Latino youth that with perseverance and a dream injected with faith, anything is possible.

Her recommender stated that Ms. Mejia had all of the necessary attributes of a defense attorney – intelligence, compassion, determination, and fearlessness.

Marisol Jimenez Gaytan, California Western School of Law, 2-L

Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP Scholarship: \$2500.00

Ms. Jimenez Gaytan was born in Michoacan, Mexico, and immigrated to the United States as a child. The daughter of farm workers, she is the first in her family to attend college. Her recommender stated that Ms. Jimenez Gaytan's "core values come from her family and background, and she has obviously learned from her parents and community, which has resulted in not only a wonderful person, but also a wonderful future advocate for people in need." Ms. Jimenez Gaytan wishes to become a lawyer to "touch the lives of others."

Guadalupe Alvarado Luna, California Western School of Law, 3-L (Part-Time)

Jose & Laura Castillo Scholarship: \$2500.00

Ms. Alvarado Luna was born in Michoacan, Mexico, and immigrated to the United States when she was four years old. She is the first in her family to attend college. Her recommender said that Ms. Alvarado Luna has "demonstrated a personal understanding of many of the issues Latino and other marginalized communities face, and will be able to tie together her past experiences in order to enhance her contributions to the community." Ms. Alvarado Luna wishes to become an attorney to help immigrants and children.

Jessica Vasquez, Southwestern Law School, 2-L

Latinas in the Law Scholarship: \$1500.00

Ms. Vasquez emigrated from Mexico. Her parents worked in the strawberry fields of Oxnard to provide for the family. Ms. Vasquez is the first in her family to attend college. She was described as a "highly intelligent, driven and compassionate future lawyer." Ms. Vasquez hopes to pursue a career in immigration law so that she can continue helping her community.

Ricardo Elorza, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, 3-L (Part-Time)

Galante Ganci, APC Scholarship: \$1500.00

Mr. Elorza immigrated to the United States when he was 11 years old. In college, he led workshops at high schools, non-profit organizations, colleges, and parks where he talked about the DREAM ACT. His recommender described Mr. Elorza as bright and determined, and with an "enthusiasm for the law and eagerness to learn." Mr. Elorza wishes to someday tell any student struggling with higher education, "Look, a boy from Oaxaca, who did not know English and is undocumented has now graduated from law school and is an attorney."