



The Dominican Bar Association Announces Honorees for 14th Annual Scholarship Gala

New York, New York- Monday, April 17, 2017 - The Dominican Bar Association (the “DBA”) is proud to announce the honorees of the 14th Annual Scholarship Gala that will take place on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at Battery Gardens. The 2017 honorees are: The Honorable Manuel J. Mendez, Lourdes M. Ventura, and the Law Office of Robinson Iglesias.

The honorees were selected by the DBA’s Board of Directors after a rigorous deliberation process. “Every year, the DBA is charged with reviewing the candidacy of very talented individuals who have given back to our community and are worthy of recognition. This year was no exception. This year’s honorees have a long history of leadership, giving back to the community, and empowering other Latinos. We are very proud of their accomplishments and honored to recognize them at this year’s 14th Annual Scholarship Gala” stated Vianny Pichardo, President of the DBA.

The Honorable Manuel J. Mendez of the Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Branch was elected to his position in 2012. He was first elected in 2003 to New York City Civil Court (County-wide) in 2003. Judge Mendez was born in the Dominican Republic and moved to Washington Heights at the age of 9 and earned his Bachelor of Science in 1983 from Fordham University College of Business prior to returning to the Dominican Republic where he earned his J.D. from Universidad Central del Este School of Law in 1987. In 1989, he completed the Fordham University School of Law’s Foreign Lawyers Program and began his private practice career. Judge Mendez is described as a down-to-earth person who doesn’t forget his roots. When he was sworn in as Supreme Court justice, he chose to have his ceremony at the Isabella Geriatric Center in Washington Heights. Justice Mendez was also a founding member of the DBA.

Lourdes M. Ventura is currently a partner at the law firm of Ahmuty, Demers & McManus. A lifelong Queens resident, Ventura is actively involved in Queens. She serves on the Board of Managers and Grievance Committee for the Queens County Bar Association as well as the Board of Trustees for the Queens Supreme Court Law Library. Ventura is currently the first Latina to serve as an officer of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York and was the first Latina to serve as President of the venerable Queens County Women’s Bar Association.

The Law Office of Robinson Iglesias, located in downtown Manhattan, was founded by Robinson Iglesias, a graduate from Hofstra Law School and a former DBA Board Member. Notably, he was the lead attorney who settled the Reynaldo Cuevas Police Shooting case against the City of New York. Iglesias has appeared as a guest speaker on CNN Español and his cases have been featured on various media outlets, including CBS, NY1, ABC, Telemundo and Univision. When he is not taking on big cases, you will find Iglesias giving back to the community. Currently, he serves on the Board of Legal Services NYC- the biggest provider of legal services- at no cost to clients who would otherwise not have representation in court.

The honorees will be recognized at the Scholarship Gala, which is the DBA’s signature fundraising event. Since its inception, the DBA has given more than \$50,000 in scholarships to deserving students, helping Latino students pursue their dreams by defraying the increasing costs of attending law school. These scholarships are made possible thanks to the generous support of our Gala sponsors. If you would like to learn more how you can help support the DBA’s scholarship program, please visit our Gala website at <https://dominicanbarassociation.wildapricot.org/2017-Annual-Scholarship-Gala>

About the Dominican Bar Association

The Dominican Bar Association is an organization of legal professionals and law students, which supports 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. The DBA also strives to support the at-large Latino community by organizing pro bono “Know Your Rights” legal workshops for members of the public, by providing scholarships and mentorship to law students, among other initiatives. To learn more about the DBA, please visit: www.dominicanbarassociation.org.