



Building Communities:

A Bridge to the Future

2nd Annual Scholarship

Dinner Dance



Sponsored by

The Dominican Bar Association, Inc.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS



Saludos! For over a decade now the Dominican Bar Association (DBA) comes together once a year to highlight our dedication to the profession, commitment to civic duty and vision for the future. At the same time, we take a moment to recognize individuals that have contributed significantly to the cause of justice.

DBA was created to unite legal professionals who share a common bond through work and heritage and to promote participation in the community. Since our founding in 1990, DBA has faithfully discharged its mission of being a source of guidance for legal professionals and a venue for *pro bono* opportunities. In recent years, we have been instrumental in backing the selection of Dominican-American and Latino judges, advancing a national agenda with our sister organization, the Hispanic National Bar Association and working with non-profit organizations that provide essential services and information to residents in city neighborhoods.

This year also marks our Second Annual Scholarship Drive where we award financial scholarships to three deserving Latino law students. Once again, DBA is proud to help foster the growing number of young Latino men and women entering the legal profession. We also encourage the recipients and all law students to be ever mindful of the power of their chosen profession and continue their involvement in minority bars and community organizations.

Tonight's theme "*Building Communities: A Bridge to the Future*" is our way of recognizing that our future is now. Indeed, just like many of us who worked on the shoulders of those that came before us, we are called upon, today, to lay a foundation for tomorrow's communities. We are all part of that effort.

Our distinguished honorees, Sen. Eric T. Schneiderman, Victor M. Espinal and William Malpica, Esq., embody our theme and represent the values of our organization. Their exemplary service and selflessness are to be celebrated.

We thank our sponsors for their participation with and support of the Dominican Bar Association. Our scholarships, our commemorative journal and many of our programs have been possible only through their generous support.

Finally, we thank all of our guests for joining us and encourage you to remain active in DBA. We hope you have a wonderful evening.

Cordially,

Jalissa A. Gomez, Esq.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jalissa A. Gomez'.

DOMINICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

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VICTOR M. ESPINAL.....*BIANKA PEREZ-VEGA, ESQ.*
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

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KARINA A. GARDEN
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CITATION PRESENTATION FOR A NOTABLE MEMBER.....*ADRIANO ESPAILLAT*
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER, 72ND DISTRICT

CLOSING REMARKS.....*FIORDALIZA RODRIGUEZ, ESQ.*
MISTRESS OF CEREMONY

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

DBA'S MISSION STATEMENT:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DOMINICAN BAR ASSOCIATION HISTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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



William Malpica received a Bachelor's Degree from the State University of New York at Albany where he was active in student affairs. Upon graduation, he was selected as a Public Affairs Fellow with the Coro Foundation, a not-for-profit leadership training program in New York.

Will served as Special Assistant to then State Senator Donald Halperin of Brooklyn and worked on the Senator's political bid for New York City Public Advocate. At the conclusion of the unsuccessful campaign, Will was appointed as the Brooklyn Regional Representative to Governor Mario Cuomo and Ombudsman for State Services.

Will graduated from the Fordham University School of Law in 2000. As a law student, he served as Associate Editor on the Urban Law Journal and held numerous positions on Fordham's Latino Law Students Association (LALSA). An evening student, Will attended classes at night while holding rewarding positions at New York Life Insurance Company, the Coro Foundation and the Community Service Society. It was during his time in law school, that Will became keenly aware of the gross under-representation of minorities, particularly Latinos, in law schools and in the legal profession generally. He has been committed to improving educational opportunities for disadvantaged students and to diversifying the racial and ethical make-up of the legal profession.

As a summer associate at Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP, Will successfully tapped his firm's resources and collaborated with the Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund (PRLDEF) to design an annual day-long workshop entitled, "*How to Succeed in Law School*." The program has provided hundreds of incoming law students with a vital orientation to the rigors of law school. The initiative is among those described in his publication, "Expanding Latino Participation in the Legal Profession: Strategies for Increasing Latino Law School Enrollments" (with Mauricio España, Fordham Urban Law Journal, May 2003).

With Mayer Brown's blessing and its financial support, Will has continued to collaborate with student leaders, bar associations, non-profit organizations and others to devise new and effective approaches aimed at increasing minority representation in the profession. Among them, a judicial internship placement program which provides 15 to 20 new paid internship opportunities; an annual conference of minority law student leaders which facilitates critical exchange among 75 to 100 student leaders from law schools in the region; and an annual mock interview program which gives approximately 50 students each year the opportunity to practice their interview skills with Mayer Brown attorneys.

His passion for diversifying the profession has been highlighted by various legal and general circulation publications including the *New York Times* and the *New York Law Journal*. Will recently spoke regarding law firms and diversity strategies as a member of a panel organized by the New York State Bar Association.

As an associate with the law firm of Mayer Brown, Will practices corporate and finance law, specializing in structured finance transactions. His pro bono projects include representing the National Board of the NAACP on general corporate matters, including the drafting of the organization's national constitution and by-laws.

Will was appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg to a three-year term on the New York City Commission on Human Rights. The Commission investigates complaints brought by New Yorkers alleging violations of the city's human rights code. One of 14 Commissioners, Will is charged with, among other things, reviewing the decisions of administrative law judges assigned to the Commission's cases.

Will is co-founder of the Friends of PRLDEF; chair of the Student Outreach Committee of the Puerto Rican Bar Association; a member of the Corporate Advisory Board of the Committee for Hispanic Children & Families; and a member of the Committee on Recruiting and Retention of Lawyers of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. In 2003, he was named one of New York's 25 most influential Latinos by the *New York Post*.

Will lives in Jackson Heights, Queens with his wife, Nury, and their daughter, Rebecca.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF:

Victor Miguel Espinal

Victor Miguel Espinal, a dominican-american activist in the New York, Philadelphia, and New Jersey tri-state area since 1966, has been since then providing assistance to non-citizens of the United States, pro bono publico in civil rights, immigration and human rights, to the present date (2005).

Every month, in a voluntary program, Victor provides a clinic to guide non-citizens, in any of the 3 states, in combination with local entities and the Consulate General of the Dominican Republic having jurisdiction over each of the principal cities in the tri-state area.

Prior to rendering the immigration orientation with the collaboration of churches, alcoholic anonymous groups, community organizations, etc. Victor was principally providing guidance in the following entities :

1. Since 1965 to 1982 : Club Deportivo Dominicano, Inc. (New York) serving as President, General Secretary, President of the Softball League Felipe Alou, public relations and columnist (sports) in the local newspapers EL DIARIO-LA PRENSA, Noticias Del Mundo, El Nacional, etc. The Club Deportivo was chartered in New York 3/23/1965.
2. Council of Dominican Organizations, Inc., a group of 12 entities with membership in the five boroughs of New York, practising sports and receiving community guidance, English as a second language, immigration assistance to become U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents of the U.S., and Victor was the founding Director and Counsel, since 1972 to 1982. This entity was chartered in New York (1972) as N-PC.
3. National Association of Dominicans Abroad, Inc., chartered in New York as a community guidance entity and for political enhancement. (1974). It was founded by Victor and he was the General Director. The entity sponsored forums/fora in all kinds of community needs, mainly for the latino community in the Northern Section of New York City. Victor headed the group until 1983. Campaigns for many candidates in New York were then voluntarily headed as coordinator by Victor.
4. As a follow-up professional entity to the Committee of Friends and Graduates of the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (1978) the founding members NURYS DE OLEO, ROSA LEYDA MATEO, and VICTOR MIGUEL ESPINAL, had chartered the American Society of Dominican Attorneys, Inc. (1990) in New York, to help in the efforts to become licensed members of the different U.S. Bars to members admitted in the Dominican Republic and to organize the lawyers of dominican ancestry or born in the mother country but licensed in the various States of the United States, to get together and achieve positions such as : deans of law schools, judges, law clerks, etc.

The lawyers from Dominican extraction interested in teaching positions were provided with the community basis to be sponsored by local political clubs and the county chairmen to become judges and law clerks.

Victor was the founding president and the director of community legal education from 1990 to November, 1996, when he was replaced by Judge Mendez.

2005 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

For their academic achievements and commitment to the Latino community, the Dominican Bar Association, Inc. is proud to name Enrique Acuña, Karina Garden and Yaneris Mercedes Rosa as the distinguished scholarship recipients of 2005.

METLIFE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Enrique R. Acuña, is currently a 2nd year student at the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law. Before attending law school, in his hometown of San Bernadino, California, Enrique was actively involved with a variety of organizations serving the Latino community. He obtained a Bachelor's degree in film and video production from the University of California, Santa Cruz with an impressive academic record.

While in law school, he participated in Cardozo's advocacy program for battered women and the volunteer income tax program in East Harlem. The Cardozo School of Law recognized his commitment to public service by naming him one of the inaugural members of its Public Service Scholar program. Enrique is particularly interested in focusing his studies and professional efforts on labor law to advocate on behalf of Latino workers and is externing at the law firm of Kennedy, Schwartz & Cure.

BRODER & REITER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Karina A. Garden, is currently a 2nd year student at Brooklyn Law School. When Karina was 8 years old, her mother brought her family to the United States from the Dominican Republic to provide her daughters with better educational opportunities. Karina has taken advantage of those opportunities and before enrolling in law school, she completed a bachelor's degree at Boston University with a double major in psychology and political science.

In addition to maintaining a demanding course load, Karina works full-time as a corporate paralegal to help finance her law school education. Karina also serves as the current president of Brooklyn Law School's Latin American Law Student Association and has consistently made an effort to participate in programs and activities offered to law students through the Dominican and Puerto Rican bar associations.

GREENBERG, GREENBERG & GUERRERO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Yaneris Mercedes Rosa is a 1st year student at Harvard Law School. Yaneris has been committed to public service since she was an undergraduate at Cornell where she was actively involved in the recruitment and provision of support services to Dominican and other Latino students. While maintaining an excellent academic record, she also made time to volunteer at a bilingual education program at Beginning with Children Elementary School in Brooklyn.

Since enrolling in law school, Yaneris has continued to dedicate time to the Latino community by volunteering as a high school mentor through the Learning and Mentorship Project, participating in the Street Law Program, and by serving as alumni relations co-chair of the student organization La Alianza. Yaneris is especially interested in studying immigration law largely because of her own experience immigrating to this country at a young age, with her mother, from the Dominican Republic.

Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to be honored today by the Dominican Bar Association, with whose members I have been proud to work alongside for years. They are leaders in the community, and their devotion and dedication to justice and the expansion of civil rights and liberties is an example to us all. My State Senate district has a significant Dominican-American population, and I look to the members of the Dominican Bar Association and other Dominican leaders for guidance. I am grateful for their assistance in tackling the problems facing our district, and New York State as a whole.

Congratulations to honorees

*Victor Espinal, Esq.,
William Malpica, Esq.*

&

*the Dominican Bar Association on their
2nd Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance.*

Enjoy the party!

Senator Eric T. Schneiderman

NYS Senate Deputy Democratic Leader





**The City of New York
Office of the Mayor**

April 28, 2005

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone to the New York Botanical Garden for the Second Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance of the Dominican Bar Association.

Since its inception, the DBA has been a tremendous source of support for the Latino legal community throughout the nation. Its commitment to assisting Latino attorneys and deserving law students succeed, as well as making a difference in the lives of not only Dominican Americans, but also all New Yorkers, is commendable and greatly appreciated. On behalf of the residents of New York City, I recognize DBA's dedicated team for hosting this event in support of your scholarship programs and in tribute to this evening's honorees.

I congratulate Senator Eric T. Schneiderman, Victor Espinal and William Malpica upon being honored here tonight. They have demonstrated exemplary leadership and have each made important contributions to strengthen the legal community and to improving the quality of life for their fellow New Yorkers. These individuals serve our great City with pride and distinction, and I wish all of tonight's guests the very best for an enjoyable event and for continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael R. Bloomberg".

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
Assemblymember 72ND District
New York County

Room 652
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248
(518) 455-5807

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New York, New York 10034
(212) 544-2278

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Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force

April 28, 2005

Ms. Julissa Gomez
President
Dominican Bar Association
Canal Street Station
P.O. Box 203
New York NY 10013

Dear Ms. Gomez:

I would like to congratulate the Dominican Bar Association and its board of directors for the celebration of its Second Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance. I also would like to extend my salutations to this year's honorees for their invaluable support and contribution to the causes that affect our community and the City of New York as a whole.

The Dominican Bar Association needs to be commended for transforming the lives of thousands of young people through its orientation and scholarship program. The DBA members and leaders not only serve as role models and mentors for our children and youngsters, but also help our future attorneys accomplish their dreams by providing needed financial assistance.

I look forward to continue working with you and providing my assistance in helping the Dominican Bar Association help others to be productive members of society. Once again, congratulations to you, and to those being recognized today for their altruism, achievements and contributions to our community.

Sincerely,

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Assembly
72nd A.D.





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STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

JOSÉ R. PERALTA
Assemblyman 39TH District

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Jackson Heights, New York 11372
(718) 458-5367
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Legislative Office Building
Room 528
Albany, New York 12248
(518) 455-4567
Fax (518) 455-5375

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Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian
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April 18th, 2005

Mrs. Julissa Gomez
The Dominican Bar Association, Inc.
P.O Box 203
New York, NY 10013

Dear Mrs Gomez,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your invitation to attend the Dominican Bar Association's "Second Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance," on April 28th, 2005. I am also writing you to confirm my attendance to this very important event. I would like to congratulate the Dominican Bar Association for its strong commitment to higher education, in particular for their help in the advancement of the Dominican Community. I would also like to congratulate this year's honorees, New York Senator Eric T. Schneiderman, Community Activist Victor M. Espinal, and Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw Associate William Malpica, Esq.

I praise the Dominican Bar Association for its hard work and dedication. Its work has enabled many young Dominicans in are community to pursue a higher education without financial worry. Without the assistance of the Association, many receivers of this year's scholarships would have seeing their dreams unfulfilled. Once again, thank you for the invitation, and for all your hard work. I look forward to seeing you at this year's "Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance." Feel free to contact my office if you require any assistance.

Sincerely,

Jose R. Peralta
NYS Assembly member

JP/dm



MIGUEL MARTINEZ
COUNCIL MEMBER, 10th DISTRICT

o **DISTRICT OFFICE**
601 WEST 174TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10033
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April 15, 2005

Ms. Julissa Gomez
The Dominican Bar Association
P.O. Box 203
New York, NY 10013

Dear Ms. Gomez:

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Dominican Bar Association on its Second Annual Scholarship Diner Dance. I am very proud of the valuable work and dedication shown to our community by the Dominican Bar Association. This organization provides valuable professional support to our current lawyers and important scholarships to emerging law students.

I join the Dominican Bar Association in recognizing three very special people: Senator Eric Schneiderman, William Malpica, Esq. and Victor Espinal, Esq., whom all have shown an incredible drive to serve the people of our community.

Once again, congratulations to the Dominican Bar Association and honorees!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miguel Martinez".

Miguel Martinez
Council Member, 10th District





Congratulations

to the

DOMINICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

on their 2ND Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance.

Best wishes to all the Honorees

and Scholarship recipients and to

DBA for making it all possible!

Sincerely,

New York City Council Member

Diana Reyna





DOMINICAN AMERICAN NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE

*The Dominican American National Roundtable (DANR)
is a proud sponsor of the*

SECOND ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER DANCE

and deeply congratulates

Eric T. Schneiderman
New York State Senator

Víctor M. Espinal,
Community Activist

William Malpica, Esq.
Associate, Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw

1050 17th Street, N.W., Suite 600, Washington DC 20036
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SENATOR, NEW YORK STATE SENATE

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COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

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DOMINICAN-AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL ALLIANCE

**We congratulate sister organization
Dominican Bar Association
and the Honorees and Recipients at the
2005 Scholarship Gala**

A special acknowledgment to DAPA members:

**Julissa A. Gómez, DBA President
Elsa Marte-Hampton, DBA Vice-President
Luis Guerrero, DBA Treasurer
Llinét Beltré, DBA Board
Nestor Diaz, DBA Board**

Felicidades!

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The law firm of
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its honorees and
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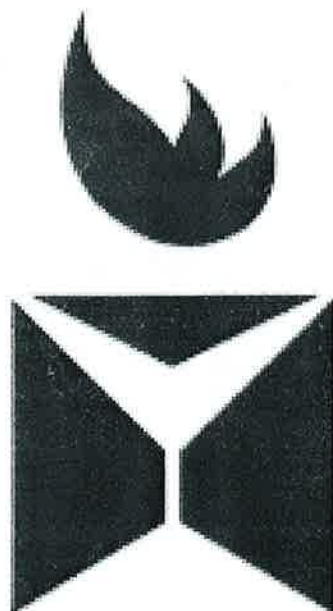


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*Congratulations to the 2005
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the Dominican Bar Association
on their Second Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance.

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CONGRATULATES

Senator Eric T. Schneiderman

William Malpica, Esq.

Victor Espinal, Esq.

**And Extends Heartfelt Gratitude to the
Dominican Bar Association**

For their important contributions to our community

Seyfarth Shaw Charitable Foundation
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Second Scholarship Annual Dinner Dance
and congratulates this year's honorees.

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the honorees of the Second Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance

Hon. Eric T. Schneiderman

Victor M. Espinal

William Malpica, Esq.

and is proud to support

the Dominican Bar Association, Inc.

**in its unwavering support of our community and for its achievements in
fostering legal education among Dominican-American students**

Congratulations

and

Thank You

To the

Honorees

Carmen Suardy, Esq.
DBA Past President

Congratulations to the
DOMINICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

and its Distinguished Honorees

HONORABLE ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN

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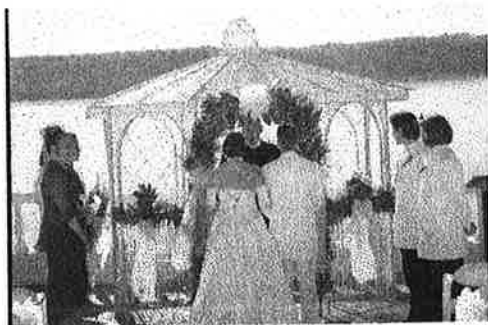
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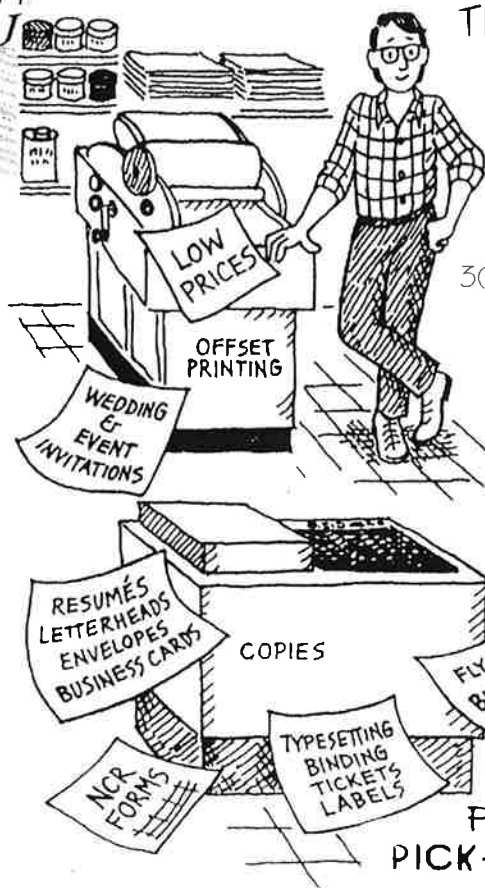


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