THE DOMINICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Eighth Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY ACTIVISM AND PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE





Wednesday, May 25, 2011

Maestro's

1703 Bronxdale Avenue, Bronx, NY

Program

Invocation

National and Dominican Republic Anthems

YAMILET

Master of Ceremonies

ERIC DECAMPS

Dean of The Society of American Magicians Parent Assembly #1

Welcome Remarks

FIORDALIZA A. RODRIGUEZ, ESQ.

President

Presentation of Awards to Honorees

HONORABLE RITA MELLA

Criminal Court Judge, New York County

FIORDALIZA A. RODRIGUEZ, ESQ.

RAFAEL A. LANTIGUA, M.D.

Associate Director of the Department of Medicine and Medical Director of the New York Presbiterian Hospital and Co-Founder of Alianza Dominicana

JUSTICE MANUEL MENDEZ

Board Member

Recognition of Past President DARIO MARTINEZ, ESQ.
Board Member

Presentation of Scholarship Awards

JUSTICE FAVIOLA SOTO

Board Member & Scholarship Committee Chair

Closing Remarks

PETER L. CEDENO, ESQ.

Vice-President

Dancing

FIRST CLASS ENTERTAINMENT

President's Message

May 25, 2011

Dear Members and Friends:



Thank you for joining us tonight despite your busy schedule. Your presence here is encouraging and is a testament of your loyalty to this organization. Since 1982, the Dominican Bar Association, also known as the American Society of Dominican Attorneys, hereafter "DBA," has grown a lot not only in numbers, but also in developing opportunities to ensure we get a seat at the table.

When I got sworn in this January by Justice Rolando Acosta, I was quite surprised to be joined by four other members of the Appellate Division including Associate Justice Nelson Roman and Presiding Justice Luis Gonzalez. That night, I promised to do my best to keep us in the public eye by holding regular events city-wide.

In February, we offered a free Continuing Legal Education class in New York County entitled Summary Jury Trial Program presented by Honorable Lucindo Suarez. Afterwards we celebrated Dominican Independence Day. In March, we combined two events by celebrating women's history month and our Annual Judiciary Night. Llinet Beltre-Rosado moderated an evening conversation with Judge Leticia Ramirez, Judge Helen Voutsinas, and Justice Diccia Pineda-Kirwan at CUNY School of Law in Queens. We also co-sponsored a Federal Clerkship Panel with other organizations such as the Puerto Rican Bar Association and the Hispanic National Bar Association, to name a few. In April, forty Members and Friends of the DBA went on a Road Trip to see the comedy La Barberia/The Barbershop off Broadway. It was a hilarious, entertaining and a really nice night out. In May, we are co-sponsoring a "Starting Your Own Practice" class with NYSBA/other bar associations and are celebrating our Eighth Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance. Stay tuned for future events listed in our E-Noticias.

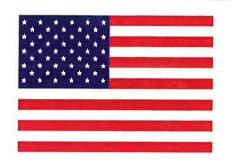
All these activities have been organized for the benefit of the membership in furtherance of DBA's mission statement. The statement is reprinted in this journal, and I encourage you to review it together with the history of the organization. It certainly puts into perspective that "we have come a long way!" Keep in mind, that we have also supported sister organizations by attending the events of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, Puerto Rican Bar Association, Network of Bar Leaders, Bronx Women's Bar Association, Dominican American National Roundtable, to name a few, and we have recognized their participation in each of our events.

Tonight, Yamilet will start our program by singing our anthems. Please join me in congratulating our honorees, the Honorable Rita Mella and Rafael A. Lantigua, M.D., as they each reflect our theme of community activism and promoting social justice. I also congratulate the winners of the scholarships for their devotion and pursuit of a legal career. You are in for a treat, as our Master of Ceremony is Eric DeCamps. Mr. DeCamps is a Magician and is the current Dean of The Society of American Magicians (S.A.M.) Parent Assembly #1. Among his many accolades, he's been named "Magician of the Year" and has distinction of being the second magician to receive the "Gold Medal of Excellence for Close-Up Magic" in the 109 year history of the S.A.M. By the way, Mr. DeCamps is Dominican.

I am very happy that you decided to be with us tonight. Now sit back, relax and enjoy the food and good music. I want to express great appreciation to my family and friends for their support especially my husband Eliezer for lending me a hand, an ear and for attending to our children, while I fulfill my community commitments.

Saludos y abrazos,

Fiordaliza A. Rodriguez



United States National Anthem

Oh, say, can you see,
By the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed
At the twilight's last gleaming?

Whose broad stripes and bright stars,

Thro the perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched,

Were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets' red glare, The bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night That our flag was still there.

O say, does that star-spangled

Banner yet wave

O'er the land of the free

And the home of the brave



Himno Nacional de la República Dominicana

Quisqueyanos valientes, alcemos Nuestro canto con viva emoción, Y del mundo a la faz ostentemos Nuestro invicto, glorioso pendón.

iSalve! el pueblo que, intrépido y fuerte.

A la guerra a morir se lanzó,

Cuando en bélico reto de muerte

Sus cadenas de esclavo rompió.

Ningún pueblo ser libre merece Si es esclavo, indolente y servil; Si en su pecho la llama no crece Que templó el heroísmo viril.

Mas Quisqueya la indómita y brava Siempre altiva la frente alzará; Que si fuere mil veces esclava Otras tantas ser libre sabrá.



National Anthem of the Dominican Republic (English Translation)

Brave men of Quisqueya, let us sing with strong feeling, and let us show to the world our invincible, glorious banner.

Hail, O people who, strong and intrepid, launched into war and went to death!

Under a warlike menace of death, you broke your chains of slavery.

No countly deserves to be free, if it is an indolent and servile slave, if the call does not grow loud within it, tempered by a virile heroism.

But the brave and indomitable Quisqueya, will always hold its head high, for if it were a thousand times enslaved, it would a thousand times regain freedom.

Dominican Bar AssociationOur 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.

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.

The first organization of Dominican lawyers formally incorporated in the State of New York was the Association of Dominican American Lawyers (ASDA) in 1982.

Several years later four Dominican attorneys began to meet and discuss the creation of an organization dedicated solely to the interests of Dominican lawyers, law students and the legal interests of the Latino community within the State of New York.

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 practicing attorneys. 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 was renamed the "Dominican Bar Association, Inc." to more accurately reflect its membership, identity and purpose.

Since its creation the Dominican Bar Association has demonstrated a commitment to furthering the legal interests of all Latinos and Dominicans in all facets of the community. DBA's efforts have consisted of providing pro bono legal clinics 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 judicial screening panels to name just a few activities. While much has been accomplished, even more work remains to be done. With that in mind, DBA looks forward towards continuing to aggressively promote the legal interests of the Latino community both locally and nationwide.

Dominican Bar AssociationMission Statement



To increase professional opportunities for Dominican-American, native Dominican and Latino attorneys in the United States legal profession;

To assist native Dominican lawyers and attorneys of other nationalities in meeting the requirements for the practice of law in the United States, 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 Unites States, laws 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 United States legal system by the Dominican and Latino communities;

To address issues of concern to the Dominican and Latino communities in the United States;

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.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AR ASSOCIATION AND HON. RITA M. MELLA

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Dominican Bar Association

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"Memories are made of these"



























HONOREES 2011

Honorable Rita Mella Honoree



Rita Mella was born and raised in the Dominican Republic and emigrated to the United States at the age of 22. She obtained her undergraduate degree from the Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña in the Dominican Republic and pursued her post-graduate studies at the University of Florida.

After graduating from CUNY Law School, Judge Mella worked for a small firm concentrating on a criminal defense practice. After that, and for more than 13 years, she served as a law clerk in the New York State Unified Court System. During those years, she worked in many different courts: Civil Court, Family Court, Criminal Court, Supreme Court and Surrogate's Court.

Judge Mella was elected to the Civil Court bench in November of 2006 from the 7th Civil Court District which covers all of Washington Heights and Inwood, as well as West Harlem. Since the beginning of her term, she has been assigned to the Manhattan Criminal Court where, for almost two years, she presided over the Manhattan Misdemeanor Treatment Court.

She chairs the Gender Fairness Committee of the Manhattan Criminal Court. Under her leadership, the Committee has organized a number of programs designed to raise awareness and address gender-related issues including the trafficking of young women for the sex industry, the incidence of domestic violence among teenagers, and the interaction between the Criminal Courts and the transgender population.

Judge Mella is a member of the Board of Directors of Judges and Lawyers against Breast Cancer (JALBCA). She is also a member of the Dominican Bar Association and has participated in the organization's annual Judiciary Night. For many years, she has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Dominican Women's Development Center as well as of the Centro Altagracia de Fe y Justicia, two community-based organizations that work to promote social justice in the Washington Heights area.

Rafael A. Lantigua, M.D. Honoree



Dr. Lantigua attended the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo and graduated from medical school in 1972. He migrated to New York City to follow his mother's footsteps that had previously migrated to the United States in 1969. He trained in Internal Medicine at Lincoln Hospital from 1973 through 1976 and from July 7, 1976 to June 1977 and served as a chief medical resident at the same institution. On July 7, 1977, he moved to Rochester, New York where he trained in Endocrinology at the School of Medicine of Rochester University. In January 1980, he returned to New York City with an appointment as Assistant Professor of Medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University and Assistant Attending at the New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Dr. Lantigua has moved up to the rank of the University to become Professor of Clinical Medicine and since 1994, he is the Associate Director of the Division of General Medicine at the Department of Medicine, and the Medical director of Associate in Internal Medicine at the New York Presbyterian Hospital. He is a member of the Admission Committee of Columbia University Medical School and member of the Internal Medicine Residency Committee. Since 1995, he has represented Columbia University at the American Medical Association (AMA) Section on Medical School and last year he was elected member of the Executive Committee.

He has been actively involved in research on issues that affect the quality of life in minority population. He has served as coinvestigator in a New York State Department of Health Program to promote awareness and education of cardio-vascular disease in the minority community. He also served as the principal investigator in the National Institute of Aging Study of issues of quality of life affecting the minority elderly. From 1998 -2008, Dr. Lantigua served as a Director of the Columbia Center for Active Life of Minority Elders a Resource Center for Minority Aging Research sponsored by the National Institute of Aging and Co-Investigator in a study of the Genetics of Alzheimer's Disease in Latino Families. Since 1999, Dr. Lantigua has served as Deputy Director of the Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer's Disease and the Aging Brain, Columbia University.

He has published more than 60 medical articles in peer-reviewed journals. A frequent speaker on health topics affecting minorities, he has been the co-chair of two major symposiums dealing with Hispanics' health in Washington Heights-Inwood.

Dr. Lantigua is co-founder of Alianza Dominicana, Inc., the major community based organization serving the Dominican Community in the United States. He is Co-founder and former Chairperson of the Board of the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrants Rights. He has served in multiple Boards of non-for profit organizations such as the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund, Puerto Rican/Hispanic Institute for the Elderly, the Latino Commission on AIDS, and National Hispanic Leadership Agenda. He is an active member of the following non- for profit boards: The ARC Fort Washington Senior Center, the Dorothy Blumberg Community Fund, and Isabella Nursing Home. On numerous occasions he has served in the Board of Directors of the Dominican Medical Society and was the president of the Society in 1996. From 1988 to 1997, he served as a member of the New York State Board of Professional Medical Conduct. Dr. Lantigua also served as a member of the Board of the Hispanic PAC U.S.A. and he is a member of the Board of Directors and the treasurer of the Hispanic Education and Legal Fund. From 1998 to 2002, Dr. Lantigua was a member of the Board of Directors of the Northern Manhattan Empowerment Zone. In 2005, Dr. Lantigua was appointed to prestigious post of member of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Institute on Aging (NIA), a branch of the National Institute of Health (NIH). He has also served as a member of the Greater New York Hospital Association advisory task force on Diversity in Health Care Leadership. In 2009, Dr. Lantigua was honored by the Legal Aid Society for his "pro bono" work in front of testifying as a health expert, in favor of Latinos Federal Court, Immigrants facing deportation.

Dr. Lantigua has been distinguished as a Grand Marshall of the Dominican Parade in 1983, and has been given an honorary professor degree from the Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo its Alma Mater and from the Universidad Technologica de Santiago, Dominican Republic. In 1998, he was conferred a Doctor Honoris Causa degree in Social Medicine by Spanish University of America. Dr. Lantigua has received the Key of the City of Miami and he has received commendations from the Bronx, Queens and Manhattan Borough Presidents, the Office of the Mayor of Newark, New Jersey. The City Council of New York, the New York City State Senate, the U.S. Congress and the New York City Comptroller have also recognized the efforts of Dr. Lantigua and his involvement in the community.

Erick DeCamps

Master of Ceremony



Eric DeCamps is a world class magician. Born of Dominican parents in New York City, he developed a passion for magic in his mid teens and practiced magic after school incessantly.

Since then Mr. DeCamps has become a much sought-after performer for many Fortune 500 companies who have engaged him to entertain their most valued clients. The Society of American Magicians has awarded him the Gold Medal of Excellence for Magic becoming only the second magician in the 109 year history of the organization to receive this prestigious award.

Mr. DeCamps takes great pride in his Dominican heritage and regards it as an honor for him to act as the Master of Ceremony for New York City's Dominican Bar Association's 2011 Annual Dinner Dance.







www.ericdecamps.com

Scholarship Recipients



Julie Novas

Julie Novas is a 1L at City University of New York School of Law and is interested in women's and international rights law. As a social worker and educator with a Masters in social work and a Bachelor in special education and elementary education, she has worked with various grassroots organizations as an advocate for all women and Latinos in particular.

Her parents immigrated to the United States from the Dominican Republic after the fall of Trujillo and she will be the first in her family to obtain a law degree.

Her impressive resume demonstrates her dedication and her determination to empower our community and her spirit and tenacity are clearly tracts to be fostered and emulated. Julie exhibits all the qualities that will make for a good citizen, a good American and a good attorney.

Vivian Salcedo

Vivian Salcedo is a 2L at New York Law School and is interested in Immigration Law. She is presently a volunteer for Safe Passage, a program which focuses on advocating for un-documented juveniles in the foster care system for an adjustment in status.

Her parents are immigrants from Peru and as a young child, she recalls being their liaison to American Society. She seeks to expand that role by pursuing a career in immigration law.

Vivian is the first in her family to obtain a Bachelor's degree and she has a younger sister who just started college. She has experienced firsthand the disparities in the treatment of Latinos in our society and is making an effort to level the playing field.

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May 25, 2011

Fiordaliza A. Rodriguez President, Dominican Bar Association Canal Street Station P.O. Box 203 New York, NY 10013

Greetings y saludos!

It is my pleasure to congratulate you on 29 years of service to New York City's legal community, promoting the legal interests of the Latino community both locally and nationwide, and on your 8th annual Scholarship Dinner Dance.

Since its creation in 1982 as the Association of Dominican-American Lawyers, and its renaming in 1996 to reflect the evolution of this professional community, the Dominican Bar Association has demonstrated a commitment to furthering the legal interests of Dominicans and all Latinos in every facet of the community. Working through a tight network of involved and motivated attorneys, DBA's members offer *pro bono* legal clinics, mentor students and raise money for scholarships, facilitate communication between the bar and the judiciary, and participate in judicial screening.

Congratulations as well to this year's honorees: Dr. Rafael Lantigua, Associate Director/Medical Director at New York Presbyterian Hospital and Co-Founder of Alianza Dominicana, and the Honorable Rita Mella, New York County Criminal Court Judge. Their combined contributions to public health and social justice are broad and deep, and we are all better off for their efforts.

The fabric of our community, this City and this nation is made ever stronger by the continuing efforts of this organization and these honorees. Thank you, and have a wonderful evening.

Warm regards,

Adriano Espaillat Senator, 31st SD

Chair, Senate Puerto Rican/Latino Caucus



New York State Assemblyman Carl E. Heastie



Congratulates

The Dominican Bar Association, Inc. On Its 8th Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance

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SPEAKER



THE COUNCIL

OF

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

CITY HALL

NEW YORK, NY 10007

TELE 212-78

May 25, 2011

Dear Friends,

Greetings to everyone gathered here tonight as the Dominican Bar Association, Inc. (DBA) celebrates its 8th Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance!

As Speaker of the NYC Council, it's a real privilege and honor for me to join you in paying tribute to a group that has done so much to help make sure that both our city and nation remain places of hope and opportunity for all people.

Since its founding, the DBA has been working tirelessly to help represent and defend the unique and evolving needs of our city's growing Latino community. Whether providing opportunities for professional development, offering pro bono legal services, or maintaining its scholarship fund, the DBA has helped to support the advancement of the Latino community while preparing countless New Yorkers for successful careers in the legal profession. This dedication and commitment to helping others has been so crucial to us in city government as we continue to look for ways to help bring about positive change in the lives of all New Yorkers.

On this special night of celebration, I would like to thank the DBA and its talented, hardworking staff and attorneys for the critical work that they are doing to help ensure the success and advancement of Latinos within the legal profession. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate tonight's honorees: Hon. Rita Mella and Rafael Lantigua, M.D.

Please accept my very best wishes for a wonderful evening. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Christine C. Quinn

Speaker



ALTAGRACIA NUÑEZ & ASSOCIATES, PC.



congratulates

THE DOMINICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

and its honorees

HONORABLE RITA MELLA RAFAEL A. LANTIGUA, M.D.

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients

Altagracia M. Nuñez
Attorney-at-Law

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Congratulations & Best Wishes To our Honorees

The Honorable Rita M. Mella Criminal Court Judge, New York County

&

Rafael A. Lantigua, M.D.

Associate Director of the Department of Medicine and Medical Director for Internal Medicine at the New York Presbyterian Hospital Co-Founder/Chairperson of Alianza Dominicana



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May 25, 2011

Dear Friends,

Congratulations to the members and friends of the Dominican Bar Association on the occasion of its 8th Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance.

Since 1996, the Dominican Bar Association has admirably worked to increase professional opportunities for Dominican-American, native Dominican and Latino attorneys in the U.S. legal profession. I want to take this opportunity to recognize the 2011 honorees: the Honorable Rita Mella and Rafael Lantigua, M.D. Each of you merits the highest praise for your outstanding contributions to the Association, the legal profession and the community.

Best wishes for a lovely event and for the continued growth and success of the Dominican Bar Association.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Stringer



Ruben Diaz Jr. BOROUGH PRESIDENT



OFFICE OF THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT The Bronx County Building 851 Grand Concourse Bronx, New York 10451

TEL: 718-590-3500 FAX: 718-590-3537

May 25, 2011

Dominican Bar Association, Inc. P.O. Box 203 New York, NY 10013

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Dominican Bar Association, Inc. on the occasion of its 8th Annual Dinner Dance.

As an organization with an exceptional record of public service, the Dominican Bar Association should be proud of its many accomplishments. This Annual Dinner Dance honors the organization's dedication to serving the residents of this city and to upholding the integrity of our judicial process.

Since its inception, the Dominican Bar Association has demonstrated a commitment to furthering the legal interests of Latinos and Dominicans in all facets of the community by offering pro bono legal clinics, assisting law students by providing scholarships and mentoring and actively participating in judicial screening panels.

Tonight, I am proud to join you in honoring the Honorable Rita Mella, Criminal Judge, New York County, and Rafael Lantigua, M.D., Associate Director/ Medical Director at New York Presbyterian Hospital and Co-Founder of Alianza Dominicana, for their hard work and contributions.

On behalf of the 1.4 million residents of The Bronx, I, Ruben Diaz Jr., President of the Borough of The Bronx, salute the Dominican Bar Association, Inc. for its accomplishments and wish this stellar organization continued success in all its endeavors.

Sincerely,

Ruben Diaz Jr.



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CONGRATULATES

THE DOMINICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

ON THE OCCASION OF ITS

8TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

CELEBRATION AND

THIS YEAR'S HONOREES,

HON. RITA M. MELLA

AND

RAFAEL A. LANTIGUA, M.D.





Columbia University Medical Center

Office of Government & Community Affairs

congratulates

The Dominican Bar Association

8th Annual Gala

"Celebrating Community Activism and Promoting Social Justice"

and salutes this year's honorees

The Honorable Rita Mella

Criminal Court Judge, NYC County

Æ

special acknowledgement to our very own Dr. Rafael Lantigua

Professor of Clinical Medicine, Columbia University Medical Center

for his exceptional dedication, untiring efforts and surpassing leadership.

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For her leadership in the DBA

And the Honorees of the Eighth Annual Scholarship Dinner

Honorable Rita Mella Rafael A. Lantigua, M.D.

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THE DOMINICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Eighth Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY ACTIVISM AND PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

ongratulations

The 77,000 members of the New York State Bar Association celebrate the Dominican Bar Association's 2011 Honorees!

Honorable Rita M. Mella Rafael A. Lantigua, M.D.

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Eliezer Rodriguez, Esq.

Congratulates

The Dominican Bar Associationand
The Honorees of the Eighth Annual Scholarship Dinner

* Honorable Rita Mella *Rafael A. Lantigua, M.D.

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Special Acknowledgement...

To all our volunteers/Members and Board Members for your efforts in making this event a success.

To all our supporters for their continued, generous support and loyalty.

To all those who made donations earmarked for the scholarship.

To Eric DeCamps, Nick Carter Photography, First Class Entertainment and NYCplus.

To our friends and families for supporting the Board Members while in long meetings planning events for the organization.













Congratulates

Honorable Rita Mella
Rafael A. Lantigua, M.D.
And
The Winners of the DBA's Scholarship

H. Benjamin Perez, Esq.

Peter L. Cedeno, Esq.

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