

THE DOMINICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

“BREAKING BARRIERS: LATINO EXCEPTIONALISM”



2012 SCHOLARSHIP DINNER DANCE

Columbia Faculty House
Wednesday, June 6, 2012



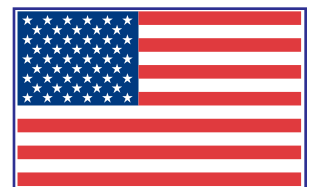
Nacional Dominicano (DOMINICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM)

*Quisqueyanos valientes alcemos
nuestro canto con viva emoción
y del mundo a las faz ostentemos
nuestro invicto glorioso pendon*

*Salve 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 heroismo viril*

*Mas Quisqueya, la indómita y brava
siempre altiva la frente alzará
que si fuere mil veces esclava
otras tantas ser libre sabrá!*





FROM THE PRESIDENT BIANKA PEREZ



Dear Members/Guests:

I welcome you tonight to the Dominican Bar Association's annual dinner. DBA has been instrumental in promoting and/or providing free legal services to our communities in need; in providing scholarships to deserving Latino law students; assisting in the selection of qualified Dominican American and Latino Judges and working with other organizations that have similar goals.

This year's dinner focuses on "*Breaking Barriers and Latino Exceptionalism*" the very core of our mission. I thank all DBAs Members and Friends who have helped us in this journey to raise scholarship funds and membership. The more we all contribute to the organization's goals, the more we can give back to our youth, the foundation of our future. We need to nurture our youth and teach or lead them by good example, as we were taught by our parents. As President, I promise to continue to devote my time to the organization's mission.

I want to congratulate our honorees Junot Díaz and Yudelka Tapia, who have both shown us that breaking barriers is possible. Junot has broken barriers as a successful author and first Dominican Pulitzer Prize winner. Yudelka, a mother and wife, came from the Dominican Republic to New York and became the first Dominican woman elected as District Leader in Bronx County. She has broken many barriers and accomplished great things.

I hope you all enjoy this great event. I thank all of you for joining us at our Ninth Annual Scholarship Dinner. This is an exciting aspect of my Presidency, to share this great moment with all of you present.

Sincerely,
Biana Perez, President

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WELCOMING REMARKSBIANKA PEREZ VEGA
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PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO HONOREES

HONOREE JUNOT DIAZ
PULITZER PRIZE WINNER; MIT PROFESSOR

HONOREE YUDELKA TAPIA
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS.....HON. FAVIOLA A. SOTO
DBA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

RECOGNITION OF PAST PRESIDENTBIANKA PEREZ VEGA

DINNER AND DANCING



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.

HONOREE JUNOT DÍAZ



Professor Junot Díaz

Junot Díaz is currently teaching creative writing as the Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and is the fiction editor at Boston Review. Central to Díaz's work is the immigrant experience. He received the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, in 2008. In addition to the Pulitzer, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* has been awarded the John Sargent Sr. First Novel Prize; the National Book Critics Circle Award; the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize.

Díaz was born in Villa Juana, a neighborhood in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He was the third child in a family of five. Throughout most of his early childhood, he lived with his mother and grandparents while his father worked in the United States. Díaz emigrated to Parlin, New Jersey in December 1974, where he was re-united with his father. He attended Madison Park Elementary and was a voracious reader, often walking four miles in order to borrow books from his public library. At this time Díaz became fascinated with apocalyptic films and books, especially the work of John Christopher, the original *Planet of the Apes* films, and the BBC mini-series *Edge of Darkness*. Díaz graduated from Cedar Ridge High School in Old Bridge Township, New Jersey in 1987. He attended Kean College in Union, New Jersey for one year before transferring and completing his BA as an English major at Rutgers College in 1992. While at Rutgers, he was involved in Demarest Hall, a creative-writing, living-learning residence hall and in various student organizations. He was exposed to the authors who would motivate him to become a writer: Toni Morrison and Sandra Cisneros. After graduating from Rutgers, he worked at Rutgers University Press as an editorial assistant. He earned his MFA from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York in 1995. In addition to his teaching and writing, he is active in the Dominican American community and is a founding member of the Voices of Our Nations Arts Writing Workshop, which focuses on writers of color. Díaz was a Millet Writing Fellow at Wesleyan University, in 2009 and participated in Wesleyan's Distinguished Writers Series. His next book, a collection of short stories, entitled *This is How You Lose Her*, is to be published in September 2012.

Courtesy of Wikipedia

HONOREE YUDELKA TAPIA



Yudelka Tapia

Yudelka Tapia has been a community activist for more than 25 years. She started in her native Dominican Republic. She was the President of the “Union Dominican de Mujeres,” a national organization that organized and educated women, while she attended O&M University, where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Accounting. Yudelka came to the United States, 23 years ago while pregnant with her second child.

In the early 1990’s, Yudelka organized the community members from her apartment, while she cared for her young children. In 1994, she founded the Great Alliance Democratic Club, the first Dominican based political club in the Bronx. In 1997, the Great Alliance Democratic Club was a crucial force in the election of Adolfo Carrion to City Council.

Ms. Tapia has been an advocate in favor of rent control; immigration amnesty; against domestic violence; and issues concerning small businesses, livery drivers and youth.

Yudelka played an integral role in forming the NYS Livery Taxi & Bases Owners Federation. Yudelka Tapia has fought for quality education for our children. Her four sons attended NYC public schools. Ms. Tapia has served as President of the Parent Teacher Association of Theodore Roosevelt High School from 1998-2000 and as a member of the School Leadership Team, which at the time determined school budgets.

In 2002, Yudelka was a member of the National Voting Rights Commission. As a result of the 2000 Census, many district borders were redrawn, and this resulted in the creation of the Assembly District 86. She has been on the board of directors of several community organizations, such as: Young Adults Against Drugs and Alcohol (YAADA), Center of Alternative Communication, and Dominican Federation of Women. She currently serves on the Executive Board of the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO- DC37, Local 1407. In 2002 she was elected as State Committee Member for Assembly District 86th, a position she held until 2008. She is currently serving as the female District Leader for the 86th Assembly District. Ms. Tapia was surprised early this year by the NYS Democratic Committee and the Obama Campaign when she was selected to serve as one of the eight delegates to represent Bronx County in the Democratic National Convention.

2012 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

RINERYYS J. GARCIA



Ms. Rinerys J. Garcia is a mother of two girls whose dream is to become a public interest lawyer. She has completed her second year at CUNY School of Law.

She arrived in New York from the Dominican Republic at the age of 15. She lived in the South Bronx, where she and her family experienced many hardships, including poverty and eventually homelessness.

Ms. Garcia has demonstrated her deep commitment to our community by her participation in several projects. She interned at Brooklyn Family Defense Project. As an intern she helped families navigate through the Family Court proceedings. She served as a bridge to help reconcile our cultural practices and the perception of parental abuse. Presently, she is interning at Stuart Small, Think Big Inc., a non-profit organization that provides financial advice and legal assistance to working families in the South Bronx.

She also interned with Hon. Rita Mella, in New York Criminal Court, where the judge expressed many accolades for her work and determination.

Ms. Garcia is committed to providing our community with the information and skills needed to guide and to strengthen it to accomplish the impossible. We are confident that she will meet these goals.



KATHERINE MATEO

Katherine Mateo just finished her first year at Stanford Law School. She is a first generation immigrant from the Dominican Republic, arriving here at the age of six. She grew up in the housing projects of the South Bronx and attended public schools there.

Ms. Mateo has a very strong work ethic which she inherited from her parents who were able to raise three children who obtained college degrees. She involved herself in community service while attending high school, helping immigrant families struggling with language barriers. Pushed by this motivation, she worked as a mediator for the New York State Attorney Generals Office with the Consumer Frauds and Protection Bureau.

She also worked with Senator Adriano Espaillat in his Washington Heights Office helping constituents access public services from food stamps to housing.

Katherine Mateo is an amazing individual whom no doubt will make great contributions to our community and the larger community.



ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

June 6, 2012

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

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to extend greetings to all who have gathered for the Dominican Bar Association's 2012 Scholarship Dinner Dance, "Breaking Barriers: Latino Exceptionalism." Your participation in this event is not only a tribute to the outstanding individuals being honored tonight, but it also supports the crucial mission of this fine organization.

As a representative of Dominican-American, native Dominican and Latino attorneys throughout New York State, the Association has played an important role in furthering their participation and involvement in the legal profession. Through its members' tireless efforts The Dominican Bar Association has made an enormous impact on our state. I commend everyone whose efforts have made the great work of the Association possible.

I am also pleased to take this opportunity to join you in congratulating tonight's honorees: Junot Diaz and Yadelka Tapia. Congratulations on receiving these well-deserved awards.

Once again, best wishes to everyone involved in today's festivities. I am confident that it will be a memorable event.

Warmest Regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Schneiderman".

ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN

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ON THE OCCASION OF ITS
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AND
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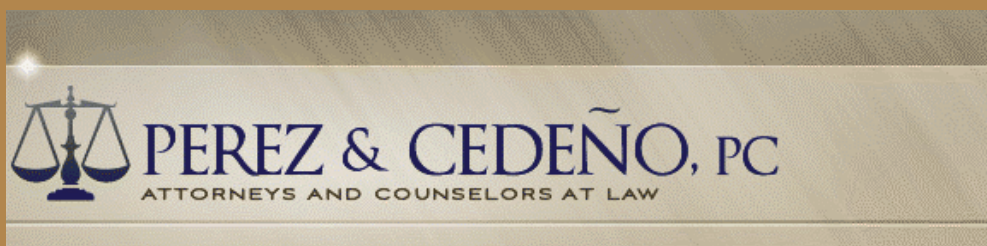
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Congratulates honorees

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And
The winners of the DBA's Scholarship Award

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Committee to Re-Elect Nelson Castro 2012

As the first Dominican from the Bronx to serve in the New York State Assembly, it is a great pleasure and honor for me to congratulate the Dominican Bar Association on their 9th Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance.

I especially congratulate the Pulitzer Prize winning author, Junot Diaz.

I especially congratulate one of our own,
Yudelka Tapia
our Female District Leader of the 86th Assembly District.

Along with the entire 86th District Democratic Team for 2012, Steve Santana, candidate for Male District Leader, Nereida Medina, candidate for State Committeewoman, and C Charles, candidate for State Committeeman, we would like to wish Yudelka all the best in this special recognition.

**New York State Assemblyman
Carl E. Heastie**



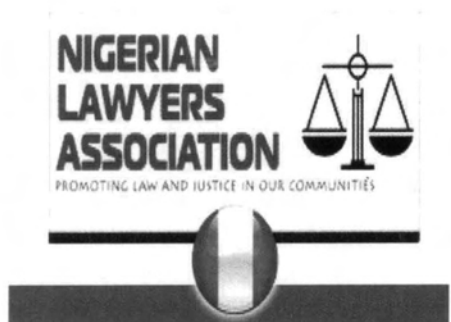
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**The Nigerian Lawyers Association congratulates
the Dominican Bar Association and its 2012 Honorees!**

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On their 9th Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance
And the Honorees
Junot Diaz & Yudelka Tapia

Stephen B. Kaufman, P.C.
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Congratulations

to

The Dominican Bar Association

And This year's Honorees

Junot Diaz and Yudelka Tapia

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Antonio Seda, Esq.

Sandy Baez of SYB Multiservice

Elba Torres and Robert T. Torres of Able Media Group

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2012 HIGHLIGHTS



Swearing in ceremony of Board of Directors.



President and Vice-President accepting award from Council Member Robert Jackson.

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UPCOMING EVENTS DOMINICAN BAR ASSOCIATION:

June 8, 2012: 9th Annual “Celebrating the Caren Aronowitz Unity in Diversity Program,” which will be held at 12:20pm at the Rotunda, 60 Centre Street, New York, NY;

June 20, 2012: CLE on Money & Politics, co-hosted with the Puerto Rican Bar, NYS Bar, Asian Bar and Metropolitan Black Bar;

July 2012: Networking Mixer; details to follow on our website;

August 2012: Website Launch Party; for more details check the website;

October 25, 2012: DBA General Election Meeting.

For more information check our website:
www.dominicanbarassociation.org

The Perecman Firm, PLLC and Paul Carmona & Associates PLLC

Congratulate

The Dominican Bar Association

On its Ninth Scholarship Dinner Dance Celebration

A very special congratulations to the Honorees
Professor Junot Diaz and Community Leader Yudelka Tapia
You are true Role Models.



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