



HONORING THE PAST – EMBRACING THE FUTURE

Top row, from left to right: **Adelfa Callejo** – first female Hispanic practitioner in Dallas; **Alberto Gonzales** – First Hispanic US Attorney General (2005-2007); **Gustavo C. Garcia** – Together with Carlos Cadena, first Hispanic Attorney to argue before U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark case *Hernández v. Texas* (1954); **Richard Peña** – First Hispanic to serve as State Bar President of Texas (1998-1999); **Justice Eva Guzman** – First Hispanic Woman on Texas Supreme Court (2009-present); Bottom row, from left to right: **Justice Raul A. Gonzalez, Jr.**, – Justice Gonzalez sat on the 13th Court of Appeals and the 103rd District Court. He was the first Hispanic appointed or elected to statewide office in Texas. Subsequently, he was first Hispanic on Texas Supreme Court (1984-1998); SBOT President **J. Chrys Dougherty** with founding members/leaders of the Concerns of the Spanish Speaking Community Section: James W. Ray, Jr., J. Manuel Banales, Hon. Reynaldo G. Garza and Frank Herrera (1980); **Linda Reyna Yañez** was appointed by Gov. Ann Richards in 1993, is the first Hispanic woman to serve on an appeals court in the history of the State of Texas and is the first woman to serve on the 13th Court of Appeals.; First Hispanic to serve at Attorney General State of Texas. (1991-1999) **Carlos Cadena** – Together with Gustavo C. Garcia, he was the first Hispanic attorney to argue before U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark case *Hernández v. Texas* (1954).

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Message from the Chair



Manuel Escobar

This is the first of what we hope will be several newsletters throughout the Bar year. It is hard to believe three months already have gone by! I remain honored to be able to serve as the Chair of the Hispanic Issues Section. Our leadership has been hard at work building upon the tremendous progress that we have made in the past several years. Regular newsletter updates are part of continuing that progress – [please send us your feedback](#) so we can make these newsletters more relevant to you!

Hispanic Heritage Month is upon us, and the Hispanic Issues Section encourages all of its members to attend the various events of local Hispanic bar associations in Texas. See the end of this newsletter for a listing of upcoming events, and check out [the updated events page of the HIS website](#) for more info. We want to know about your events – [email us if you have something you would like us to share!](#)

Speaking of events, we are continuing to make it a point to get out around the state and meet current and future members! We will be holding membership mixers and events throughout the year, and our first mixer is coming up later this month in El Paso and will be hosted in conjunction with the El Paso Mexican-American Bar Association:

Tuesday, October 27, 2015
5:30 pm MST
Mesa Street Grill
3800 N Mesa St Suite D1, El Paso, TX 79902

We are also thrilled to announce that Judge Maria Salas-Mendoza of the 120th Judicial District Court and Judge Robert Anchondo of County Criminal Court at Law No. 2 have been confirmed as guest speakers at the event. We hope to see many of you there!

Manuel Escobar
Chair, Hispanic Issues Section

— HIS AT ANNUAL MEETING —

Elections and New Officers, CLE, and Awards

Elections and New Officers

HIS held its annual meeting on June 18, 2015, as part of the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting held in San Antonio, Texas. The agenda included the election of officers for the 2015-2016 bar year, and appointment of new Council members.

Your 2015-2016 officers are:

Manuel Escobar, Chair
Arturo Aviles, Chair-elect
Betty Balli Torres, Vice Chair
Angelica M. Hernandez, Secretary
Valerie Carillo, Treasurer
Benny Agosto, Immediate Past Chair

Your new Council members,
with terms expiring in 2018, are:

Larry Banda
Justice Dori Contreras Garza
Victor Villarreal

Congratulations to the officers and new Council members!

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New officers and Council members from HIS, African-American Interest Section, and Asian-Pacific Interest Section being sworn in at annual meeting.

HIS AT ANNUAL MEETING – Elections and New Officers, CLE, and Awards

*Continued from page 2***CLE Programming**

For the first time in several years, at this year's Annual Meeting HIS presented an entire afternoon of timely and relevant CLE programming. Thanks to all that attended! If you were not able to make it, here's what you missed:

Immigration Upheaval in Texas – DACA, DAPA and the Unaccompanied Minor Crisis

*Speakers: Frances Valdez, F. Valdez Law PC, Houston
Edna Yang, American Gateways, Austin*

Frances Valdez provided information on the ins and outs of submitting applications under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) programs, including eligibility requirements and disqualifications. Frances also discussed pending lawsuits threatening the expansion and further application of these programs.

Edna Yang provided an update on the numbers of unaccompanied minors coming across the border and issues that have arisen as to detention of minors and families. Several HIS members have stepped up to take Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) cases to help these minors obtain immigration relief and remain in the United States. There remains significant work to be done on this issue. Please check the [Unaccompanied Minor Crisis page on the HIS website](#) to learn more about organizations that coordinate volunteer and other efforts in this area.

Energy Law and Opportunities in Texas and Mexico

*Speakers: Alex Gonzalez, ExxonMobil, Houston
Alfredo Ramos, Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP, Houston
Alfredo Gutierrez, Sanchez Oil and Gas, Houston*

Alfredo Ramos provided information on opportunities that have arisen in Mexico as a result of energy laws enacted in Mexico in 2014, including joint venture opportunities for midstream operators and infrastructure development. Alfredo Gutierrez gave an interesting presentation on minimization of theft and fraud during a business boom cycle from the perspective of in-house counsel, including issues relating to internal theft. Alex Gonzalez provided a discussion about general and personal jurisdiction in toxic tort litigation.

The Callejo Legacy – A Retrospective of the Accomplishments of Adelfa and Bill Callejo

*Speakers: Elisabeth Wilson, Winstead PC, Dallas
Marcos Ronquillo, Friedman & Feiger, LLP, Dallas*

Elisabeth Wilson and Marcos Ronquillo shared historical perspective and personal anecdotes regarding Adelfa and Bill Callejo, two beloved members of the Hispanic legal community. The presenters discussed the Callejos innumerable accomplishments as civic, legal, educational and community leaders in the Dallas area and throughout Texas.

Reception and Awards

The CLE was followed by a joint reception co-hosted by HIS and the African-American Lawyers and Asian-Pacific Interest Sections, at which HIS gave out its annual awards.

— HIS ANNUAL AWARDS —

HIS honors members of the Hispanic legal community at its annual meeting through a number of achievement awards. These recipients represent the best of our profession.

Bar/Organization of the Year: Dallas Hispanic Bar Association (DHBA)

DHBA's extraordinary year included outreach efforts in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex and the surrounding areas to community members, high school students, law students, and attorneys. In addition, DHBA distinguished itself in being one of the first bar associations in the country to address the unaccompanied minor crisis, and doing so in a concerted and systematic way that served as a model to many others, including the Hispanic Issues Section. DHBA created an Unaccompanied Minors Action Committee, coordinated efforts with Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc. and the Human Rights Initiative to provide CLE's, to organize educational forums and to work with local immigration courts.



Representatives of DHBA: Director Issac Faz, Treasurer Larry Banda, Immediate Past President Elisabeth Wilson, President-Elect Rocio C. Garcia, and President Monica Lira Bravo

Judge of the Year: Justice Patricia Alvarez – 4th Court of Appeals

Justice Alvarez is a former Chair of HIS, former President of the Mexican American Bar Association of Texas, active member of ABOTA, Past State Bar Director of District 12, Chair of the Professional Development Program, Board Member of the State Bar College. She is the 2015 recipient of the State Bar College Professionalism Award, and is a true visionary and leader!

James W. Wray Jr. Founder's Award: Nina Perales – MALDEF

Nina Perales is a leading civil rights litigator and an expert on immigrant rights, voting rights and redistricting litigation. A graduate of Brown University and Columbia School of Law, she has successfully argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. HIS recognized Nina for her tremendous efforts and work over many years fighting for the rights of Latinos throughout the country.

Legislator of the Year: Congressman Filemon Vela (Brownsville)

Congressman Vela is the first representative from the newly created 34th Congressional District of Texas. A native of Brownsville and the son of Southern Federal District Judge Filemon Vela, he has fought for immigration reform on behalf of migrant workers, dreamers and undocumented minors. He was the first Congressman to file a comprehensive immigration reform bill in the House of Representatives and has led a discussion for rational, reasonable solutions to the country's immigration issues.

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Justice Patricia Alvarez and Immediate Past HIS Chair, Benny Agosto



Celina Moreno, MALDEF staff attorney, with Benny Agosto, accepting for Nina Perales



Justice Elena Chapa, with Benny Agosto, accepting for Congressman Vela

HIS ANNUAL AWARDS*Continued from page 4***Pete Torres Public Service Award — Richard Loza, Project Director
Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid (San Antonio) Bexar County Family
Justice Center**

In addition to his duties of litigating cases on behalf of survivors of domestic violence and abuse, Richard Loza trains volunteers with the San Antonio Police Departments' Family Assistance Crisis Team, volunteers with Catholic Charities San Antonio's Ask A Lawyer Program, co-chairs the San Antonio Bar Association's (SABA) People's Law School, assists with the SABA Mentor Program, assists with the Mentor Community Justice Project and for the second year was Awarded "Mentor of the Year" by the Hispanic Law Students at his alma mater St. Mary's School of Law. Richard truly exemplifies service and volunteerism in our profession.

*Richard Loza***Reynaldo Garza Lifetime Achievement Award — Gloria Leal**

In the words of Justice Gina Benavides, Gloria Leal is a pioneer and a trail-blazer. Gloria has been a trusted advisor, mentor and friend to many in our legal community for over thirty years, and has been active in efforts and projects at the national, state and local levels. Gloria has served in almost any capacity you can imagine, having been a past State Bar Minority Director, MABA Texas President and Chair of the Hispanic Issues Section, just to name a few. Gloria is always the first one to help out our community – and to enlist the rest of us to help as well!

*Gloria Leal with Manuel Escobar***HIS Chair/President's Award — Angelica M. Hernandez**

Angelica Hernandez is a partner in the Houston firm of Lineberger Goggan Blair & Sampson. She was honored by the Houston Bar Association with its President's Award in 2014 and honored by her firm as Attorney of the Year in 2014 for her professional work and work in the community. Angelica was given the President's Award in recognition of her tireless service to HIS in multiple capacities, and serving as the engine that has kept the section moving forward.

*Angelica Hernandez with Benny Agosto***HIS Outgoing Chair Award — Benny Agosto, Jr.**

Benny Agosto was instrumental in the formation of a coalition to address the unaccompanied minor crisis. His actions and those of others, including other HIS members, resulted in workshops being held throughout Texas and creation of training materials to prepare Texas attorneys to provide pro bono services and other legal support to unaccompanied minors and their families.

*Benny Agosto, SBOT President Allan Dubois,
and Manuel Escobar****Congratulations to all of our Awardees!***

UPCOMING EVENTS

We encourage everyone to support and attend the following events, many of which are held in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

October 17, 2015	Hidalgo County Bar Association HCBF Golf Tournament, Palm View Golf Course, McAllen
October 20, 2015	Hispanic Bar Association of Houston Judicial and Legislative Reception, Harris County Civil Courthouse, Houston
October 23, 2015	Hispanic Bar Association of Austin Hispanic Heritage Luncheon, Omni Hotel Downtown, Austin
October 27, 2015	HIS-El Paso MABA Membership Mixer, Mesa Street Grill, El Paso
October 30, 2015	MABA San Antonio Dia de los Muertos Halloween Party, La Villita Plaza Juarez, San Antonio
November 13-14, 2015	National Hispanic Pre-law Conference & Law Fair, University of Houston, Houston
November 14, 2015	Cameron County Bar Association Annual Golf Tournament-Rancho Viejo Country Club, Rancho Viejo
December 4, 2015	MABA San Antonio Pachanga, San Antonio

Please see the [HIS website](#) for more information on these and other events!