



HISPANIC ISSUES SECTION



H O N O R I N G T H E P A S T – E M B R A C I N G T H E F U T U R E

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.** – First Hispanic appointed or elected to statewide office in Texas; 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** Appointed by Gov. Ann Richards in 1993, the first Hispanic woman to serve on an appeals court in the history of the State of Texas and the first woman to serve on the 13th Court of Appeals; **Carlos Cadena** – Together with Gustavo C. Garcia, the first Hispanic attorney to argue before U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark case *Hernández v. Texas* (1954).

IN THIS ISSUE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR 1-2

LOCAL HISPANIC BAR EVENTS AROUND THE STATE 3

HISPANIC ISSUES SECTION EVENTS 4

UPCOMING STATE BAR EVENTS (AND TRIP TO CUBA!) 5

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF UPLC SUBCOMMITTEES NEEDED TO COMBAT NOTARIO FRAUD 6

Message from the Chair



Manuel Escobar

Dear Hispanic Issues Section Members,

We have had a busy year thus far. I am following through on our pledge to visit more of the state during this bar year. In October I visited with many wonderful members of MABA El Paso at a joint membership mixer and drive. This month we will visit Corpus Christi, and we have plans for Houston in April as well. **See page 4 for more on these events.**

More importantly, your executive committee has been discussing and planning what we hope to be a multiple-year project of the Hispanic Issues Section focused around combating notario fraud. This project includes both short-term and long-term goals:

Short-term goals:

- the development of educational materials for the public, for attorneys and for judges describing notario fraud and how to identify clients who may have been victims of notario fraud;
- the development of a standalone Texas-specific website gathering materials and resources for the public, for attorneys and for judges regarding notario fraud; and
- the recruitment of additional volunteers to assist the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee of the State Bar of Texas in combating notario fraud (more on that on page 6 in this issue).

Continued on page 2

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR*Continued from page 1*

Long-term goals:

- the development of programs to use those educational materials and resources to educate the public on notario fraud;
- the review of the viability of private civil actions, based in part on the Texas Deceptive Practices Act, on behalf of victims of notario fraud;
- the development of training materials and programs to enable private attorneys to directly assist victims of notario fraud in filing and prosecuting such private civil actions;
- the development of potential legislative solutions giving the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee additional tools to combat notario fraud; and
- working with local governments giving local law enforcement officers to develop potential solutions and tools to combat notario fraud.

There have been several projects created by many fine organizations to assist victims of notario fraud in the past. There also are several valuable sources of resources to combat notario fraud that already exist, such as the [Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee of the State Bar of Texas](#), the [Consumer Protection Division of the Texas Office of the Attorney General](#), the [American Immigration Lawyers Association](#), and others. This project seeks to build on that important prior work, and to create a single repository for notario fraud information in the State of Texas.

This will be among the most intensive projects the Hispanic Issues Section ever has undertaken, and we will need your help. If you:

- have direct experience with representing or assisting victims of notario fraud;
- have had any involvement in prior projects in this area;
- have any interest in developing materials relating to notario fraud; or
- just want to help out,

[Please contact us](#). If you would like to help immediately, please see the call for volunteers for the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee on Page 6.

We thank all of our members for their continued support as we have organized the early stages of this project. We are extremely excited to announce this project and get underway, and we look forward to working with all of you to help our community!

Sincerely,
Manuel Escobar
Chair, Hispanic Issues Section

LOCAL HISPANIC BAR EVENTS AROUND THE STATE

Austin

2015 Hispanic Heritage Luncheon

The Hispanic Bar Association of Austin (HBAA) held its annual Hispanic Heritage Luncheon on October 23. This year, HBAA raised over \$45,000 to go towards scholarships for college seniors who wish to take the LSAT review course, scholarships for law students to help defray the costs of studying for the bar exam, and other charitable efforts of the HBAA Charitable Foundation. The keynote speaker was Justice Gina Benavides and the cultural speaker was singer-songwriter Margo Rey. This year surpassed last year's record-breaking fundraising total and was HBAA's successful fundraising event ever!

Please see the [HBAA's website](#) for more information on the HBAA Hispanic Heritage Luncheon.

Other fall events included a Thanksgiving meal project and a holiday party for children in the community. HBAA again collaborated with the South Austin Neighborhood Center to put together Thanksgiving meals for 60 families in need in our community. HBAA's Annual Kids Holiday Party was held on December 10. HBAA members provided gifts food and entertainment to 30 children and their families.

DALLAS

The Dallas Hispanic Bar Association (DHBA) hosted its 10th Annual Event, Noche de Luz Gala on September 26, 2015 at the Perot Museum. The event raised over \$70,000 that will go towards law student scholarships and other diversity pipeline initiatives like the DHBA annual Youth Law Symposium for high school students. The La Luz Award recipient was State Rep. Rafael Anchia for his continued support of the DHBA and the Hispanic community as a whole. The President's Award recipient was Judge Daniel Solis, who serves as the administrative judge for the Dallas Municipal Court, as well as serving as the first MABA-Dallas President in 1978.

On October 29, 2015, DNBA held a social in honor of the 2015-2016 HNBA National President, Robert Maldonado. He spoke to the group about upcoming HNBA initiatives as well as the HNBA Mid-Year Conference. The DHBA will be partnering up with HNBA to hold a Latina Leadership Program in Spring 2016.

DHBA also hosted various activities during Hispanic Heritage Month, including a Tequila Tasting Social, Spanish for Lawyers CLE, and hosted a Café with Conversation with Dr. Hinojosa, DISD Superintendent.

HOUSTON

Judge Lupe Salinas Day in Galveston

On November 19, 2015, the Galveston City Council issued the Judge Lupe Salinas Day proclamation in honor of the publication of his recent book *U.S. Latinos and Criminal Injustice*. Judge Salinas was also honored at a book signing reception sponsored by LULAC and Robert Quintero at the Torres & Faus Law Firm. Named partner Roberto Torres is a long-time family friend of Judge Salinas, and was a law student of Judge Salinas at the University of Houston. Congratulations, Judge Salinas!



Hispanic Issues Section Events

EL PASO

The Hispanic Issues Section hosted a membership mixer and drive at Mesa Street Grill in El Paso, Texas on October 27, 2015. There was a tremendous turnout in support of the Hispanic Issues Section and MABA El Paso! Manuel Escobar, Chair of HIS, and Oscar Lara, President of MABA El Paso, spoke about the importance of joining groups like ours to make a difference in our communities.

Thanks to everyone who attended and to all of our sponsors for their generosity and support. Special thanks go out to our guest speakers, [Judge Maria Salas-Mendoza](#) and [Judge Robert Anchondo](#). Additional thanks go out to Rolando Morales and Carmen I. Perez (and her firm [Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP](#)) for coordinating such a wonderful event!



Other Section Mixers Planned in the Coming Months:

- February 25, 2016, 5:30 PM – HIS Membership Drive and Mixer – [Hilliard Muñoz Gonzales, LLP](#)
719 S. Shoreline Blvd., 6th Floor, Corpus Christi, TX – [Invite](#)
- April 2016 – HIS Membership Drive and Mixer
Location TBD, Houston, Texas

We encourage everyone to attend the events in their area.

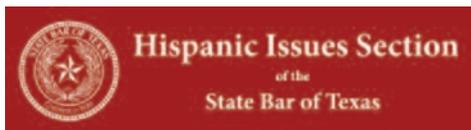
UPCOMING STATE BAR EVENTS (*and Trip to Cuba!*)

<p>March 29 – April 3, 2016</p>	<p>International Law Section of the State Bar of Texas Trip to Cuba More Information</p> <p>The State Bar of Texas is traveling to Cuba! The International Law Section is leading a trip that will take an in depth look at the Cuban legal system while at the same time allowing travelers to experience a rich assortment of cultural attractions.</p> <p>The intent of the trip is to engage in dialogue and have an honest exchange of views to aid a mutual understanding of each other's legal system and culture.</p>
<p>June 16-17, 2016</p>	<p>SBOT Annual Meeting (HIS Programming Thursday Afternoon) Fort Worth, TX – Register</p>

Please see the HIS website (<http://www.texashispanicissuessection.com>) for more information on these and other events!

******* We want to know about your events. If you would like to have an event posted on the HIS website or included in our next newsletter please contact us via email at: sections@texasbar.com

Also, if you have thoughts or comments about the website or the activities of the Hispanic Issues Section, or have something you would like to see in a future newsletter, please contact us.



www.tx-his.com

Officers

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

Council Members

Steven Aleman	Joe Escobedo
Larry Banda	Dolores Hibbs
Alfonso Cabañas	Victor Villarreal
Joe Escobedo	
Justice Dori Contreras Garza	
State Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer	
Hon. Debra Ibarra Mayfield	

State Bar of Texas Hispanic Issues Section Call for Volunteers
Additional Members of UPLC Subcommittees Needed to Combat Notario Fraud

Notario fraud is described by the American Bar Association as “individuals who represent themselves as qualified to offer legal advice or services concerning immigration or other matters of law, who have no such qualification, routinely victimize members of immigration communities.” Such representations can include false statements that the individual (1) is an attorney, or abogado; (2) is authorized to represent immigrants before the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service or before immigration courts; (3) is qualified to assist in preparing a will, a corporate document or other legal paperwork; (4) is a legal assistant; (5) has a court license; or (6) is a notario publico.

Notario fraud can have devastating impacts on its victims, and criminals often prey on those who can least afford spending previous resources on someone who has no power or authority to help them. When victims confront those suspected of notario fraud, they frequently are threatened and intimidated into not reporting the crime.

The Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee of the State Bar of Texas (UPLC) is committed to stopping notario fraud in Texas and, in conjunction with the Hispanic Issues Section, requests your assistance. The UPLC currently has 28 geographically-defined subcommittees ([you can see a list of subcommittees and chairs here](#) and a [by-county list here](#)) that investigate allegations of the unauthorized practice of law, including notario fraud. If you are willing to join a subcommittee and can assist in investigating at least one case, your time commitment would include the following:

- You and other subcommittee members would meet once per month for one to two hours to discuss cases and conduct hearings.
- You would be assigned one case to investigate, and the average duration of investigation on a case is from two to four hours per month.
- The average subcommittee member time commitment is from three to six hours per month. Members willing to take on multiple cases, or to take on cases involving litigation, will have an increased time commitment.

Additional information about the UPLC [can be found here](#). If you are interested in becoming a member of a UPLC subcommittee, please [contact the UPLC](#) or [contact the Hispanic Issues Section](#).

This call for volunteers is one part of the Hispanic Issues Section’s multiple-year project to combat notario fraud. Please [visit the Hispanic Issues Section](#) website for more information on how you can help.