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THE
25 MOST
INFLUENTIAL
HISPANIC LAWYERS

TOP LATINOS IN
THE HEALTH CARE
INDUSTRY

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December 2015 / January 2016

Vol. 16 No. 7

Display until 02/10/2016

LEGAL EAGLES

THE 25 MOST INFLUENTIAL HISPANIC LAWYERS

Story by: Laura Rivas Courtesy photos

No List is perfect. We know that. But our research effort aims to showcase the most influential Latino Lawyers in the Country. This is not a merit based list; is actual power, relevance and success rate. The following people are those our team of advisors and reporters found out to be the Top 25 Latino Lawyers. Of course there are others that would deserve to be part of this list, but we only wanted 25 to make it manageable. The list includes attorneys across a wide range of fields, but what they have in common is the impact each has made in his or her specialty and in their community. Here we take a look at 25 of the top Hispanic lawyers in the country.

RAQUEL TAMEZ

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In her current role, Tamez is responsible for all of Legal and Compliance. Previously, she worked for CSC, a global IT services and solutions provider, as Deputy General Counsel of Litigation and e-Discovery Counsel and for a law firm in Dallas, Texas.

An active member of several professional organizations, including D.C.'s Hispanic Bar Association, Tamez has received national recognition as a recipient of the Hispanic Corporate Achiever Award. She dedicates time to pro bono matters and has served as a board member for several nonprofit organizations.

YESENIA M. GALLEGOS

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Representing employers in employment litigation and in actions against former employees in trade-secret and embezzlement actions, Gallegos also conducts and oversees workplace investigations of harassment, discrimination and wage and hour audits, and provides organizations with training in employment law and compliance.

She served as the Hispanic National Bar Association's (HBNA) Regional President for Southern California from 2013 to 2014. An active author and speaker, Gallegos served as associate literary editor and technical editor for the Maritime Law Journal from 2000 to 2002.

RICHARD J. MONTES

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Since joining MLN in 2003, Montes has successfully handled matters involving medical and other professional malpractice, employment law, products liability and commercial litigation.

As president of the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association Community Service Fund, Montes leads the organization in fostering and promoting the Long Island Hispanic community's legal, educational and charitable missions, including providing scholarships to students and charitable assistance to worthy agencies and groups that serve the area. The Hispanic National Bar Association recognized him as one of its 2012 Top Attorneys Under 40.

JESSE H. RUIZ

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For over 18 years, Ruiz has focused his practice on business transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, venture capital and private equity investments. He also counsels clients on the formation of business entities in the United States, Latin America and Europe.

In 2011, the Walmart Legal Department awarded Ruiz its inaugural Walmart Legal Spark Award for "outstanding client and community service and dedication to diversity in the legal profession." Since 2006, Jesse has served as a member of the board of directors of Commonwealth Edison.

She has been called a super lawyer, a force of nature, “A Blazing Star” and one of the most influential women in Texas. But the secret of Houston-based Sofia Adrogué’s success is simple: “It is about a relentless pursuit of life-of-living with passion; remembering that ‘happiness is not an accident nor is it something you wish for. Happiness is something you design.’”

The member of Gray Reed & McGraw has garnered settlements on behalf of plaintiffs and defendants in countless complex business cases in state, federal courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution proceedings.

Adrogué is married to Mr. Sten Gustafson, their children are Sloan (20), Schuyler (15) and Stefan (12). She says that her goal is that her children concentrate on education, labor, faith, humility and integrity, proud that her adopted country (she is from Argentina) of the U.S. is a place where meritocracy and egalitarianism thrive.

“In the U.S., education is the great equalizer; I am such a product. Thus, for me, my greatest assistance has come from my family and the opportunities the U.S. has provided me.”

Humble beginnings

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Adrogué arrived with her family when she was eight-years-old with her father, Horacio J. Adrogué, her mother Sara Oyenard and her four siblings- Horacio E., Soledad, Matias and Marcos. The family arrived at Boston Logan Airport with 14 suitcases and lived off of the father’s yearly \$5,000 salary he received from the World Health Organization.

“An outing at Burger King or McDonald’s was a big family affair- a true treat!” she recalls.

She learned English, studied law at Rice University and University of Houston Law Center. She became a graduate of Harvard Business School, where she has been a U.S. Keynote Graduation Speaker and U.S. class Representative.



Super lawyer

Sofia Adrogué

went from an immigrant who did not speak English to one of the top attorneys in Texas

Story by: Joseph Treviño
Courtesy photo

Blazing Star

Since then, her work has taken her from being one of the top lawyers in Texas to a fervent community worker.

“As a lawyer I can serve as an advocate, as a facilitator and as a conciliator, resolving a litany of issues,” she says. “From the simplest to the most complex. Being a lawyer has been most fulfilling.”

As a co-host of *Latina Voices: Smart Talk*, a TV and Internet program, Adrogué has addressed business, current affairs and women’s issues. With such a career in law and her dedication to Latino culture and working for non-profits, Adrogué has some advice for young lawyers or Hispanics who want to go into law.

She says: “never forget who you are and where you come from. Find your passion. Then pursue it with preparation, perspiration, persistence and panache. With some luck you may also experience power- use it sparingly, wisely and always with integrity.”

MONICA NEUMAN

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With a focus on complex transactions and regulatory compliance matters affecting companies and institutions in the health care industry, Neuman represents a wide range of clients, including tax-exempt hospitals and health systems, academic medical centers, physician group practices, medical device and pharmaceutical companies. Chambers USA named her an Up and Coming Healthcare Attorney in 2013 and 2014. Neuman serves on the Boston Children’s Hospital Trust Latino Advisory Committee and on the McDermott Will & Emery’s national coordinating committee for pro bono activities.

FRANK HERRERA, JR.

Founder, The Herrera Law Firm
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Personal Injury



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Herrera is a longtime advocate for personal injury and accident victims who dedicates much of his time, financial resources and legal expertise to causes, including the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). New America Alliance named him the 2014 Chairman of the Board. He is chairman of the board and managing partner of Valiente International Ventures, the first and only Hispanic supplier to form a joint venture with Toyota Tsusho America Inc., an international trading company for Toyota Corporation.

ROLAND GARCIA

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Named a Super Lawyer by Texas Monthly, Garcia has tried lawsuits in state and federal trial courts, and has argued appeals in state and federal appellate courts. He was the first minority to be elected president of the Houston Bar Association, the fifth-largest voluntary bar association in the country. In addition, Garcia was president of the Hispanic Bar Association, president of the Dispute Resolution Center, director of the State Bar of Texas and a trustee of the Texas Bar Foundation.