

Sofia Adrogué Chairs Houston Youth Leadership Forum with Hon. Sylvester Turner & Astros Pitcher Lance McCullers, Jr. as Speakers

November 6, 2017

Diamond McCarthy Partner, Sofia Adrogué, and Caroline Baker (295th Judicial Court, Harris County), Co-founders and Co-chairs, presented the Youth Leadership Forum for Houston's youth at Rice University on November 8, 2017. The motto is "Engage, Educate & Empower—By Service We Lead."

Once again, this year's Youth Leadership Forum allowed students to interact with elected officials, business professionals and community leaders to discuss leadership, success and life. Notable participants included: Hon. Sylvester Turner; First Daughter Ashley Turner; Houston Astros Pitcher Lance McCullers, Jr.; Senator Sylvia R. Garcia; Retired Brigadier General Tom Kolditz; Marlen Esparza; Jonathan "Baby Jay" Gutierrez; and Deborah "D.E.E.P." Mouton.

Thanks to the continued generosity of Rice University, with Y. Ping Sun, Rice University representative, as a member of the Planning Committee, the event for high school students drew a maximum capacity group of 300 aspiring leaders from a cross-section of Houston schools including Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory School of Houston; Chinquapin College Preparatory School; AAMA's George I. Sanchez Charter High School; and Young Women's College Preparatory Academy. Past participants include students from CCISD schools, other HISD schools, St. John's, and the Kinkaid School, among others.

The Leadership Forum offers area youth a critical opportunity to gain a litany of valuable lessons, including (i) insight from emerging and established leaders in our community; (ii) knowledge about our local and national government; (iii) an understanding of how community organizations are shaping futures; and (iv) the realization that with education and hard work, they can accomplish their dreams.

"I am honored to have co-founded this event more than 10 years ago," Adrogué states. "We are elated and most appreciative of these formidable participants as they epitomize leadership with a moral compass. They provide unique insights from their many years in the arena of public service."

"Sofia Adrogué and I envisioned this forum as a unique opportunity for students to learn about civics and about how they can become servant leaders in their schools and communities even at a young age," Baker notes.

A commercial litigator for more than 25 years, Adrogué is a Partner at Diamond McCarthy LLP. Adrogué handles complex commercial litigation and multi-party proceedings in state and federal courts, as well as in ADR proceedings throughout the United States and abroad. She has obtained favorable judgments and settlements on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants in a myriad of complex business cases in



state and federal courts as well as in ADR proceedings. She represents clients in a variety of industries, ranging from entrepreneurs to multinational corporations. A native of Argentina, Adrogué has been profiled by many publications, including *Texas Lawyer* (one of Texas' Top "40 Under 40"), *Texas Monthly and Law & Politics Magazine* ("Texas Super Lawyer"), *Latino Leaders Magazine* ("The 25 Most Influential Hispanic Lawyers" and a "Top Latino Partner") and *Houston Woman Magazine*. She also serves as the Creator and Editor of *TEXAS BUSINESS LITIGATION* (ALM 2015, 2016, 2017). She is a graduate of the Harvard Business School Owner/President Management Program, an alumna of the Harvard Business School, and received her J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center, *magna cum laude*, *Order of the Coif* and *Barons*, and her B.A. from Rice University, *magna cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*, both on full academic scholarships.