

▶ CHBA Welcomes Its New President 1

▶ CHBA Co-Founder Honored With Prestigious Diversity Award..... 2

▶ CHBA Participates in Citizenship Day 3

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF CHBA MEMBERS AND PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.

CHBA focus



Welcome 2007-2008 CHBA President: *María Jimena Rivera* By Erick Diaz

This past April, the CHBA installed María Jimena Rivera as its President for 2007-08. María, as we all know her, is the Director of Career Services at the University of Connecticut School of Law. María succeeds Alexia Cruz who completed a successful year as CHBA President and now serves as a CHBA Board Member. Immediately after being installed, María shared her vision for the next year and appointed CHBA members to various committees, including the Law Student and Community Outreach, Membership Development, and Communications Enhancement Committees.

Judging by her plans, María will keep the CHBA busy for the next year, as her agenda is positively ambitious. Among her initiatives are resurrecting the CHBA newsletter (yes, the one you are now reading!), launching a new CHBA website, and increasing CHBA membership and participation.

For those of you who may not know much about her, here are some key facts. María was born in Argentina, and grew up in San Antonio, Texas. She attended Texas A & M University, where she earned a bachelors degree in International Studies and Political Science. Following college, she attended the prestigious Harvard Law School. After her graduation, she worked for one year at the Hartford office of Robinson and Cole, in their litigation department. After her stint at the law firm, she was selected for a fellowship with Yale University's legal department, where she worked for one year. After leaving Yale's legal department, she became Director of Career Services at UCONN Law. María has been a CHBA member for the past six years. María is married to Jorge Rivera. They have a two year old daughter named Isabella. Maria may be reached via e-mail at María.Rivera@law.uconn.edu.

BLAST FROM THE PAST By Maggie Castinado



On December 1, 2006, the CHBA held its 13th Annual Dinner. The event was held at the *The Hilton* in Hartford, and had over one hundred and fifty people in attendance. This dinner had a special meaning as the event featured a posthumous recognition of the late Grace Feliu, one of the CHBA's founding members. The keynote speaker was First Circuit Judge Torruella, who gave an engaging speech discussing his experiences as a Puerto Rican legal professional.

Additionally, three law school students were awarded \$1000 scholarships from the CHBA Scholarship Fund.



CHBA Co-Founder Toni-Smith Rosario Honored With Prestigious Diversity Award

By Joaquin Madry

On May 2, 2007, Toni M. Smith-Rosario received the Annual Edwin Archer Randolph Diversity Award in front of a crowd of professionals, co-workers, friends, community leaders and family, celebrating her outstanding contributions to Connecticut's legal community. Several minority law groups attended to show their love and support for Toni including members of the CHBA, Crawford, SABAC and CAPABA.

Justice Antonio Robaina presented Toni the award. Justice Palmer, of the Connecticut Supreme Court and Chief State's Attorney Kevin Kane, spoke regarding Toni's wonderful achievements and dedication to the community. In addition, Gov. Jodi Rell issued a proclamation declaring May 2, 2007 to be Toni Smith-Rosario Day in Connecticut. Most notably, Toni's mother, Edna Negrón Rosario attended the ceremony traveling from Puerto Rico-stating that she was humbled by her daughter's compassion, vision and dedication to social justice and that "[she was] proud to be recognized as Toni's mom." Toni comes from a long line of family members who are advocates for Latinos and for social justice. Her late grandfather, the Rev. Jose Negrón was a tireless advocate for Latinos- Toni later dedicated the award to her late grandfather. When asked to comment on the night's event, Toni stated simply, it was a "wonderful evening."

Toni attended Harvard University. After graduating magna cum laude from Harvard, she went to law school at Yale. Toni clerked for both a Connecticut U.S. District Court judge and a state Supreme Court judge, as well as practiced at a premiere Hartford law firm. Since 1997, she has made significant contributions while working in the Office of the Chief State's Attorney increasing diversity and making a huge impact on the Division of Criminal Justice.

Toni's dedication to community service is outstanding. Toni was instrumental in the 1993 founding of the CHBA. She has received the CHBA Recognition Award twice and the Maria C. Sanchez Community Service Award. Toni created a mentoring program in four area law schools, where she has collaborated with several Latino state judges. She also founded the CHBA Scholarship Fund and continues to be the force behind its success. Justice Palmer stated during his speech that "[Toni is] not moved to action by honors or accolades." This statement could not be truer. Unlike the private sector, there are no monetary incentives to promote diversity-and to work countless hours beyond her work schedule at the Chief States Attorney's Office. Kevin Kane stated during his speech that "[s]he certainly earns more than the state pays her." When she is not on the job-Toni spends numerous hours devoted to the community. Toni promotes diversity, mentors law students and young lawyers simply because it is the right thing to do. Today, Toni is a member of Crawford, CAPABA, the HNBA, and SABAC and is the cofounder and past president of CHBA. She lives in West Hartford with her husband, Luis, and daughter, Gabriela.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS



Date	Location
June 12, 2007	Day Pitney LLP, Hartford Office
July 10, 2007	Wiggin and Dana, New Haven Office
August 14, 2007	Day Pitney LLP, Hartford Office
September 11, 2007	Wiggin and Dana, New Haven Office
October 9, 2007	Day Pitney LLP, Hartford Office
November 2007	Annual Dinner. Venue TBD
December 11, 2007	Day Pitney LLP, Hartford Office
January 8, 2008	Day Pitney LLP, Hartford Office
February 12, 2008	Wiggin and Dana, New Haven Office
March 11, 2008	Day Pitney LLP, Hartford Office
Saturday, April 26, 2008	Annual Meeting and Elections



Connecticut Hispanic
Bar Association

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<http://chba.ctbar.org/>



Crawford Kicks Off Its Annual Dinner Celebration

By Joaquin Madry

The George W. Crawford Black Bar Association once again kicked off its Annual Dinner on April 26, 2007. The event featured guest speaker Charlsa "Sandy" D. Broadus, Esq., of Day Pitney LLP- who gave an enlightening speech entitled "How Far Have We Come." The 2007 Crawford Award recipient is the Honorable Vanessa L. Bryant, Judge. Bryant, 53, becomes the first black woman named as a federal judge in New England. She was the presiding judge in Hartford's civil court, where she oversaw court administration.

Named for George W. Crawford -- the child of former slaves in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, who attended Tuskegee Institute and Talladega College, graduated from Yale Law School in 1903, and went on to have a celebrated and courageous legal practice and public life in Connecticut for over 60 years -- the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association works for the enhancement of the role of Black people in the legal profession.



Upcoming Events

- ✓ **CHBA Monthly Board Meeting**
July 24, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.
Wiggin & Dana, New Haven, CT.
- ✓ **CAPABA 7th Annual Dinner**
August 8, 2007 at 7 p.m.
Chengdu Restaurant, West Hartford, CT.
- ✓ **CHBA Annual Summer Outing**
July 28, 2007 at 2 p.m.
275 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT.
- ✓ **CAPABA/CHBA Luau**
September. Details to follow.
- ✓ **The 8th Annual 2007 CALAHE Scholars Golf Classic**
September 12, 2007
Hop Meadow Country Club in Simsbury, CT.

CT AILA Conducts Citizenship Day, an Immigration Pro Bono Project

By Erick Diaz and Dana Bucin

On March 27, 2007, the Connecticut Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) conducted a one-day workshop that provided free legal services to immigrants applying for citizenship. CHBA was an integral part of the effort by assisting with getting the word out about this event to immigrant, and especially Spanish-speaking communities. In addition, Dana Bucin, an immigration attorney and Board member of the CT Hispanic Bar Association, assisted several immigrants with their naturalization application during Citizenship Day at Santa Rosa de Lima Church in New Haven.

WELCOME!!

2007-2008 Officers and Directors:



CHBA Officers - 2007-2008

- ❖ President – María Jimena Rivera
- ❖ President Elect – Ilia O'Hearn
- ❖ Vice-President – Rene Ortega
- ❖ Treasurer – Elizabeth Folwer
- ❖ Secretary – Maggie Castinado
- ❖ Director of Communications – Erick Diaz

CHBA Board of Directors

- ❖ Cristina Berrocal, Jackson Lewis LLP
- ❖ Mario Borelli, The Hartford
- ❖ Dana Bucin, Updike Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.
- ❖ Orlando Cordero, New Haven Legal Assistance Association
- ❖ Alexia Cruz, Travelers
- ❖ Marilyn Díaz, U.S. Dept. of HUD
- ❖ Angel Feng, Jackson Lewis LLP
- ❖ John Flores, Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Co.
- ❖ Sara Galvan, Univ. of CT. School of Law
- ❖ Joaquin Madry, Office of the Attorney General
- ❖ Isidro Rueda, Law Office of Isidro Rueda, LLC
- ❖ Toni Smith-Rosario, Office of Chief's State Attorney
- ❖ Jessica Torres, Office of the Attorney General
- ❖ Edgardo Ramos, Day Pitney, LLP

FELICIDADES!!!