



▶ CHBA Welcomes Its New President 1

CHBA
Newsletter

○ Summer,
2008



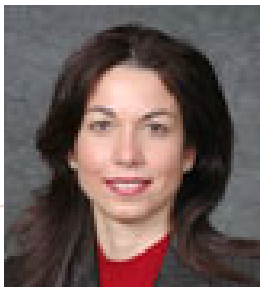
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ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF CHBA MEMBERS AND PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE.



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CHBA focus



Welcome 2008-2009 CHBA President: *Ilia M. O'Hearn* By Joaquin Madry

This past April, the CHBA received its new President for 2008-2009, Ilia M. O'Hearn. Ilia, as we all know her, is an Attorney with Bracewell & Guiliani LLP, where she is a member of the firm's Financial Restructuring team. Bracewell & Guiliani LLP is a prominent international law firm with more than 400 lawyers and a newly found office in Hartford, CT.

At Bracewell, Ilia's practice focuses on the representation of institutional investors in complex workouts and insolvency proceedings in US and international restructurings. She has numerous successful representative matters under her belt.

Prior to becoming an Attorney, Ilia flourished in public accounting. She is a registered Certified Public Accountant in the State of Connecticut. Ilia also serves on the Board of Trustees of the University of Connecticut Law School Foundation, Inc. She received her J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law and also has an M.S. from the University of Hartford.

Ilia succeeds Maria Jimena Rivera, who completed a successful year as CHBA President. Immediately upon taking the reins as President, Ilia shared her vision for the next year and appointed CHBA members to the different committees. Given Ilia's energy and enthusiasm, she will keep the CHBA busy for the year to come, as her goals and initiatives are ambitious and capable of being achieved. Among her goals are launching a new CHBA website (successfully completed see below), increasing CHBA membership and putting on an even greater Annual Dinner.

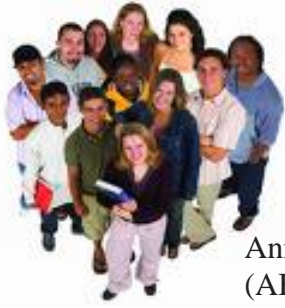
CHBA Launches New Website – Come Visit Us! By Sara Bronin



On behalf of the entire CT Hispanic Bar Association (CHBA), I want to let you all know that the new CHBA website is now live at www.ct-hba.org

The website provides information about the history, activities, and programs of the CHBA. The organization strives to serve its members and the community in a wide variety of ways, including providing networking, business development, referral, mentorship, and award opportunities. Applications for membership are available at <http://www.ct-hba.org/member-application.php>. Among other benefits, members have exclusive access to the Online CHBA Directory and discounts on membership to the National Hispanic Bar Association.

Please visit at your convenience!



CHBA Celebrates Law Day!

By Sara Bronin

Annually for the past fifty years, the American Bar Association (ABA) has celebrated Law Day, which President Eisenhower once described as a "day of national dedication to the principle of government under law." This year, the ABA established the theme of "The Rule of Law" and urged affiliated statewide and local bar associations to develop open events which relate to that theme.

The Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association (CHBA) developed two events which were loosely inspired by the ABA theme. In keeping with the educational and outreach mission of the CHBA, the Law Day Committee decided to reach out to high school students, and particularly students of color. CHBA attorneys visited two Hartford-area schools to speak about the practice of law, the challenges of being an attorney, and law-related careers.

Officially, Law Day is May 1, although many bar associations must work around local schedules to plan events. In fact, the CHBA put on its first Law Day event on April 29th, at East Catholic High School. Two attorneys, Toni Smith-Rosario and Jessica Torres, spoke to thirty-five students about how to become an attorney and about careers in the law. The second CHBA Law Day event took place on May 1st at Hartford High School's Law & Government Academy. John Flores, Cristina Madry, Joaquin Madry, and I spoke to eighty high school juniors. They asked wonderful questions about everything from martial law to what it's like being married to a lawyer to how to get into law school. Although the panels often took a casual and at times even humorous tone, we all hoped that we inspired the students with whom we spoke to consider careers in the law.

The 2008 CHBA Law Day events represent a continuation of the 2007 events, during which CHBA attorneys visited high schools in Hartford and New Haven. CHBA hopes to continue this tradition next year, and perhaps during the next fifty years of Law Day too.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS



Date	Location
September 9, 2008	Day Pitney LLP, Hartford Office
October 14, 2008	Wiggin and Dana, New Haven Office
November 11, 2008	Brown Rudnick, Hartford Office
November 14, 2008	CHBA 15th Annual Dinner, Hartford Club, Hartford
December 9, 2008	Day Pitney LLP, Hartford Office
January 13, 2009	Wiggin and Dana, New Haven Office
February 10, 2009	Brown Rudnick, Hartford Office
March 10, 2009	Wiggin and Dana, Hartford Office
April 25, 2009	Day Pitney LLP, Hartford Office

FEEL THE *VIBE*

By Toni Smith-Rosario

On April 29, 2008, CHBA members Jessica Torres, who is an Assistant Attorney General, and Toni Smith-Rosario, who is a Senior Assistant State's Attorney, spoke with about 35 students of color and faculty at East Catholic High School. The students were members of VIBE, the multi-cultural club at the school, whose advisor, Connie Wentzel, arranged the visit. Jessica and Toni discussed the process of becoming an attorney as well as their legal careers.

The VIBE students, many of whom are from Hartford and attend ECHS on full scholarship, were a diverse and enthusiastic audience. One student who plans to become an attorney has maintained contact with the CHBA in hopes of receiving mentoring as she pursues a career in the law. Toni, who is co-chair of the Law Student and Outreach Committee, indicated that the CHBA hopes to be involved in more educational activities with area Latino high school students.





GOVERNOR RELL'S PLEA TO CHBA

By Alexia Cruz

Governor M. Jodi Rell made a guest appearance at our June 10, 2008 meeting at Day Pitney LLP's offices in Hartford. Governor Rell made a plea to the CHBA to persuade more of its members to apply to be a state judge and to consider applying for a position on a state board or commission. She explained that she selects her judicial appointments from a list of attorneys who have been approved by the Judicial Selection Committee. Currently, there are approximately 100-125 names on this list and not one of them is of Hispanic heritage. Governor Rell would like to see that statistic change. In addition, Governor Rell explained that she is always looking for top diverse candidates to place on state commissions and boards. She asked the CHBA to make a greater effort to urge its members to apply for these positions.

The Governor's General Counsel, Attorney Ann Ficeto, was also in attendance and encouraged us to contact her if we have any interest in being on a state board or commission.

The CHBA formed a Judicial Selection Committee earlier this year to look at ways we can increase the number of Latino lawyers applying to become a judge, as well as increase the number of Latino lawyers on state boards and commissions. This Committee will continue its efforts to increase these numbers, as well as distribute to CHBA members information about the different selection processes.

If you have an interest in applying to be a judge or applying to be on a state board or commission, or simply want more information about the process, please feel free to contact the Chair of the CHBA Judicial Selection Committee, Alexia Cruz at (860) 277-5695 or acruz@travelers.com.



NOVEMBER 14, 2008 - CHBA 15TH ANNUAL DINNER - DON'T MISS IT!!

WELCOME!!

2008-2009 Officers and Directors:



CHBA Officers - 2008-2009

- ❖ President – Ilia O’Hearn
- ❖ President Elect – Rene Ortega
- ❖ Vice-President – Sara Bronin
- ❖ Treasurer – Elizabeth Arana
- ❖ Secretary – Maggie Castinado
- ❖ Director of Communications – Joaquin Madry

CHBA Board of Directors

- ❖ Cristina Madry, Jackson Lewis LLP
- ❖ Mario Borelli, The Hartford
- ❖ Dana Bucin, Updike Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.
- ❖ Orlando Cordero, New Haven Legal Assistance Association
- ❖ Alexia Cruz, Travelers
- ❖ Erick Diaz, Wiggin & Dana LLP
- ❖ Marilyn Díaz, U.S. Dept. of HUD
- ❖ Angel Feng, Jackson Lewis LLP
- ❖ John Flores, Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Co.
- ❖ Cristina Lopez, Shipman & Goodwin LLP
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Maria Rivera, University of Connecticut School of Law

FELICIDADES!!!