

# HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOUNDATION 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The HBA-DC Foundation (“Foundation”) was established in 1995 by the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia as a 501c3 non-profit organization. The following individuals served as the Foundation Board of Directors for 2014:

## **I. BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HBA-DC FOUNDATION**

### Officers:

President: Robert Raben

Vice President: Linda M. Estrada

Secretary: Kenia Seoane-Lopez

Treasurer: Gilma Lasso

### At Large Directors:

Lyzka DeLaCruz (HBA-DC Representative)

Maria Holleran Rivera

Jocelyn Nieva

Attachment A sets forth the list of the 2014 Foundation Committee members.

## **II. 2014 FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

One of the primary missions of the Foundation includes supporting the law student community by providing fellowships for law students working during the summer for public interest legal organizations principally serving the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. These fellowships allow students to gain valuable work experience and exposure to an area of public interest law. At the same time, these law students assist with providing legal services and advocacy to individuals or groups served by the legal service entities. Sponsoring organizations are non-profit, non-governmental organizations in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area that provide legal services or advocacy at little or no cost to clients or groups. These fellowships are intended to support law students while they work with a public interest organization in a position that is otherwise not compensated by the sponsoring entity.

To be eligible in 2014, an applicant had to be: (1) a first or second year law student; (2) actively enrolled in, and attending, one of the following accredited law schools located in the District of Columbia or its immediate suburbs: Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America, George Mason University Law School, George Washington University’s National Law Center, Georgetown University Law Center, Howard University School of Law, the David A. Clarke School of Law at the University of the District of Columbia or the Washington College of Law at American University; and (3) have an arrangement to work full-time for a minimum of eight weeks with a

sponsoring entity. Qualifying sponsoring entities must be: (1) a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization; (2) located in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area; (3) providing direct legal services or advocacy; and (4) at low cost or no cost to clients or groups. Preference is given to students working with organizations serving the D.C. Latino community among the client base and this information was included in the application.

The following criteria (not in ranked order) was used to evaluate applicants for the Foundation's Fellowships:

1. Applicant's commitment to public interest law;
2. Benefit to the sponsoring organization;
3. Contribution of the placement to the applicant's professional development;
4. Benefit to DC's Hispanic community;
5. Financial need of the applicant;
6. Quality of applicant's writing; and
7. References.

In 2014, the Foundation received over twenty fellowship applications and awarded four fellowships of \$5,000 and two fellowship in the amount of \$4,000 to the recipients noted below.

### **2014 Fellowship Recipients:**

#### **Patricia Buxton**

As a graduate of George Mason University with a Master's of Education focused on Special Education and Duke University, Patricia Buxton has been a special education teacher in Prince George's County and Washington, D.C. Public Schools for the last seven years. As a rising 2L at the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law, Patricia spent her summer at CASA de Maryland assisting with legal representation in negotiations with landlords and small business owners and retailers on consumer/credit issues and with employers on unpaid wages and other employment issues.

#### **Isabel Gomez 2014 HBA-DC Fellow**

At the time of her selection, Isabel Gomez was a rising 2L at American University, Washington College of Law. She is graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State

University. She was enrolled in the dual degree program at American University where she will also obtain a Masters in Public Policy. During her summer fellowship, Isabel provided legal and social services to the low-income immigrant community in the areas of immigration law, domestic violence, family law and human trafficking at AYUDA, where she previously served as an intake specialist.

### **William Gordon Hamilton**

During his summer fellowship at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), William Gordon Hamilton focused on both litigation and advocacy on a joint project with other students on whether Latino, English Language Learners, and migrant students face discriminatory disparities in school discipline, suspensions and expulsions. William is a graduate of the University of San Francisco, where he received a Masters in Art and Teaching, and the University of Rochester. He previously served as a public school teacher in New Haven Public Schools. He was a rising 2L at the Georgetown University Law Center.

### **Sarai Infante**

A rising 2L at American University, Washington College of Law and a graduate of Williams College, Sarai Infante dedicated her summer fellowship to providing services to the low-income elderly population of Washington, DC on a number of issues in the public benefits and general services office at the AARP (formerly the American Association of Retired Persons) Legal Counsel for the Elderly. Prior to attending law school, Sarai interned at the New York City Department of Aging, where she conducted site visits to ensure high standards for city-funded senior centers.

### **Maricela Lechuga** **2014 Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP Fellow**

Maricela Lechuga spent her summer fellowship at the Tahirih Justice Center in Falls Church, VA where she provided *pro bono* legal services to immigrant women and girls who have survived abuse either in their home country or here in the U.S. Maricela was a rising 2L at American University, Washington College of Law and a graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz. She has previously worked with CASA de Maryland, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQUE).

### **Alberto Ortiz**

Alberto Ortiz was a rising 2L at University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law and a graduate of Florida State University. In the summer of 2014, he worked with the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia and dedicated his time to defending indigent individuals in civil commitment proceedings, representing

persons acquitted by reason of insanity in release hearings, and advocating for clients on a wide variety of issues raised by involuntary psychiatric hospitalization. Previously, he has served as a court appointed special advocate and volunteer guardian *ad litem* for children in the foster care system.

### **III. PASOS 2014**

The Foundation also organizes an annual graduation celebration called PASOS, which takes place in the spring of each year. PASOS is a celebration attended by graduating law students, their families and friends, members of the Hispanic Bar and others. The event acknowledges the achievements of the many Hispanic law students who are graduating that year from all law schools in the D.C. area: the Washington College of Law at American University; Georgetown University Law Center; George Washington University's National Law Center; Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America; Howard University School of Law; the David A. Clarke School of Law at the University of the District of Columbia; and the George Mason University School of Law.

PASOS 2014 took place on Friday, May 16, 2014 at the Washington College of Law at American University. The event was attended by over 70 guests including the graduating Hispanic law students, their families and members of the local legal community. The keynote speaker for the event was Frederick Pfaeffle Arana, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Washington College of Law at American University provided the venue, food and beverages for all attendees.

### **IV. FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES**

In 2014, the HBA-DC donated \$5,000 to the Foundation in support of a full fellowship named the 2014 HBA-DC Fellow. In addition, the law firm of Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan, LLP, a long time supporter of the Foundation, donated \$5,000 to also support a full fellowship

For 2014, the Foundation raised \$24,000. The Foundation awarded a total of \$28,000 in fellowships to law students. Attachment B sets forth the list of the donors to the Foundation in 2014.

### **V. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

The Foundation held several board meetings and committee meetings throughout 2014.

## **VI. WEBSITE**

The Foundation's home page is available through the website of the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia at: <http://www.hbadc.org/site/page/foundation>. This is at no cost to the Foundation.

2014 HBA-DC Foundation Annual Report:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Ral", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

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President, 2/23/2015

# **ATTACHMENT A**

## **2014 Foundation Committee Members**

### **Fellowships Committee**

M. Lucero Ortiz  
Kenia Seoane-Lopez  
Jocelyn Nieva  
Jessica Quincosa  
Lyzka DeLaCruz

### **PASOS Committee**

Robert Raben  
Fernando Rivero  
William Alvarado Rivera  
Linda M. Estrada  
Geovanny Martinez  
Jilma Lasso  
Jocelyn Nieva  
Kenia Seoane-Lopez  
M. Lucero Ortiz  
Richard V. Rodriguez  
Maria Holleran Rivera  
Lyzka Delacruz  
Anais Duran

## **ATTACHMENT B**

### **2014 Donors to the HBA-DC Foundation**

#### **Full Fellowship Sponsor:**

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, LLP

#### **Full Fellowship Sponsor:**

Hispanic Bar Association of DC (HBA-DC)

#### **Donors to the Foundation:**

The Sidley Austin Foundation

Gray Plant Moody Foundation

Alston & Bird, LLP

Baker & McKenzie, LLP

Kirkland & Ellis

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP

Steptoe & Johnson, LLP

Wiley Rein, LLP

Beveridge & Diamond, PC

Proskauer Rose, LLP

Anonymous Donor

The Honorable Vanessa Ruiz

Fernando Rivero

Juan Sempertegui

Carlos Moreno

Edgar Class

Ricardo Aponte Parsi

#### **PASOS 2014 Host:**

Washington College of Law, American University