

# HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOUNDATION 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The HBA-DC Foundation ("Foundation") was established in 1995 by the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia ("HBA-DC") as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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

The following attorneys served as members of the Board of Directors of the Foundation:

### Officers:

President: Robert Raben

Vice President: Linda M. Estrada

Secretary: Kenia Seoane-Lopez

Treasurer: Jilma Lasso

### At Large Directors:

Leila Jade Levi (HBA-DC Representative)

Maria Holleran Rivera

Jocelyn Nieva

Attachment A sets forth the list of the 2015 Foundation Committee members.

## **II. 2015 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 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.

The fellowships are intended to support a law student, who works with a public interest organization in the DC-metropolitan area, in a position that is not otherwise compensated by the sponsoring entity. To be eligible in 2015, 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) with an arrangement to work full-time for a minimum of eight weeks

with a sponsoring entity. The sponsoring entity must be: (1) a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization; (2) located in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area; (3) providing direct legal services; and (4) at low cost or no cost to the clients. Preference was 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.

Through the HBA-DC website, the Foundation is assigned an electronic mailbox solely for the receipt of electronic fellowship applications. The Foundation received over twenty fellowship applications, which were sorted and reviewed by the 2015 Fellowship Committee.

On March 4, 2015, the Foundation hosted a 2015 Summer Public Interest Fellowship Reception to raise awareness among law students concerning the Fellowship Program.

The Foundation awarded six fellowships of \$5,000 each in 2015. However, one fellowship was not completed and \$2500 was returned to the Foundation.

### **III. 2015 HBA-DC FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS**

The Foundation Fellowship recipients are noted below:

*HBA-DC Fellow:* Gabriela Isabel Chambi - After completing her first year at American University Washington College of Law (WCL), Ms. Chambi interned at the AARP Legal Counsel for the Elderly. She is a graduate of Macalester College, where she majored in Political Science with a French minor and studied abroad in Paris, France. Prior to attending law school, Gabriela worked at a major law firm as a legal assistant for two years. She is proud of her Bolivian heritage.

*Sutherland Asbill & Brennan Fellow:* Eliseo De León - Mr. De León was a rising 2L student at Georgetown University Law Center (GULC) who interned at Ayuda. He is committed to immigration law given his Mexican immigrant family's journey and experiences in the U.S. As a summa cum laude graduate of Texas Tech University, Mr. De León majored in History and Spanish and studied abroad in Seville, Spain. He volunteered at CASA de Maryland's legal clinics serving deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA) applicants.

*HBA-DC Foundation Fellows:*

Elizabeth Limones - Ms. Limones was a rising 2L at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) and a cum laude graduate of Saint Mary's College of California. In college, Elizabeth majored in Sociology and studied abroad in Morelos, México. During the summer, she interned at Ayuda. She previously served as a case manager in the Refugee Resettlement Program at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami, FL.

Victoria Maqueda - Victoria was a rising 3L law student at the Georgetown University Law Center who interned at Ayuda during the summer. She is a summa cum laude graduate in Political Science and Spanish from the University of New Jersey, Rutgers. Previously, she interned at the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

Rachel McCoy - Following her internship at Ayuda in 2014, Ms. McCoy took an internship during the summer with Kids in Need of Defense to represent unaccompanied minors. She was a rising 3L student at the University of the District of Columbia and a cum laude graduate of the University of Kentucky, where she majored in History and Gender Studies. She is committed to serving the immigrant community based on her family's Guatemalan background.

#### **IV. PASOS 2015**

In addition to administering the Fellowship Program, the Foundation also organizes and hosts 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 from the community.

Through this event, the Foundation acknowledges the many Hispanic students, who are graduating that year from all law schools in the DC area, namely, 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 2015 took place on Friday, May 15, 2015 at the Washington College of Law at American University and the Foundation "graduated" a record number of law students.

The event was attended by over 70 guests including the graduates, their families and members of the local legal community.

The keynote speaker for the event was Christina Sarchio, Partner, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliff, LLP and Past President of HBA-DC (2006-2007). The Foundation is grateful to Dean Claudio Grossman and the Washington College of Law at American University for the continued support of the Foundation and PASOS by providing the venue as well as food and beverages for all attendees.

## **V. HBA-DC SCHOLARSHIPS**

The HBA-DC is committed to the advancement and progress of Latinos in the legal profession. To further its commitment, HBA-DC, for the first time, awarded two \$2,500.00 scholarships to eligible law students. The Foundation administered the scholarships. The recipients of the 2015 scholarships are:

Verónica García - Ms. García is from Oakland, California. She received her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, in History and Political Science. Before law school, she spent several years working to increase immigrants' access to health services and coordinating afterschool programs for high school students in East Oakland. Ms. García moved to the East Coast to attend Howard University School of Law. She has worked closely with the Latino community while in law school with organizations such as CASA de Maryland, KIND and the Legal Aid Society. She will be taking the California Bar next summer. Ms. García will be the first in her family to graduate with a law degree.

Maricela Lechuga - Ms. Lechuga is a third year at American University Washington College of Law. She has substantive legal experience in the fields of criminal defense, immigration, asylum and refugee, and general civil litigation. Before attending law school, she worked as an Associate Director for the Parent Institute for Quality Education in Berkeley, California, where she empowered parents in low income public school to be active in their childrens' education. She interned at MALDEF in Washington, D.C. and worked as a Legal Assistant at CASA De Maryland. She is fully bilingual in Spanish and English, and is fluent in German. Maricela earned her undergraduate degree at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

## **VI. FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES**

In 2015, HBA-DC donated \$5000 to the Foundation to fund a full summer fellowship called the 2015 HBA-DC Fellow. In addition, the law firm of Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan, LLP, a long-time supporter of the Foundation, once again donated \$5000 and funded a summer fellowship. Finally, HBA-DC also donated \$5000 to fund the first two HBA-DC Scholarships awarded through the Foundation as previously noted. The Foundation also received generous contributions from law firms and individuals in the legal community.

For 2015, the Foundation raised a total of \$32,455. The Foundation awarded \$30,000 in fellowships of which \$2,500 was returned to the Foundation. The Foundation also awarded two scholarship of \$2,500 for HBA-DC. Attachment B sets forth the list of donors to the Foundation in 2015.

## **VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

The Foundation held several board meetings and committee meetings throughout 2015 both in person, via telephone and via email.

## **VIII. 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.

2015 HBA-DC Foundation Annual Report:



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President

## ATTACHMENT A

### 2015 FOUNDATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### Fellowships Committee

M. Lucero Ortiz

Kenia Seoane-Lopez

Jocelyn Nieva

Jose Campos

#### PASOS Committee

Robert Raben

Fernando Rivero

William Alvarado Rivera

Linda M. Estrada

Jilma Lasso

Kenia Seoane-Lopez

M. Lucero Ortiz

Richard V. Rodriguez

Lyzka Delacruz

Erin Dominguez

**ATTACHMENT B**

**2015 Donors to the HBA-DC Foundation**

*Full Fellowship Sponsor:*

Hispanic Bar Association of DC (HBA-DC)

*Full Fellowship Sponsor:*

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, LLP

Gold Sponsors of Fellowships:

Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Sidley Austin LLP

Host of PASOS 2015:

The Washington College of Law, American University

Additional Donors:

The Honorable Vanessa Ruiz

Fernando Rivero

Carlos Moreno

Ricardo Aponte Parsi

Christina Sarchio

Juan Sempertegui

Arrastia Capote

WilmerHale

Wiley Rein, LLP

Proskauer Rose, LLP

Skadden Arps, LLP

Gray Plant and Mooty

Baker McKenzie

Alston & Bird, LLP

