



CRBA, the Sacramento area's Latino and Latina bar association, is comprised of judges, attorneys, professors, and other legal professionals who are dedicated to promoting and securing justice in the greater Sacramento area through leadership, public interest legal activity, education, and participation in civic and social activities.

www.CRBAasacramento.com

Message from CRBA President



Greetings CRBA members and supporters,

Welcome to the latest edition of the CRBA newsletter! Before you delve into the issue, I'd like to share some exciting news and developments.

Associate Justice Patricia Guerrero's nomination to serve as Chief Justice was confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments (COJA) on August 26, 2022. As the first Latina on the Court, Justice Guerrero again steps into a similar role of being the first Latina to serve in this important position. As an additional first, Justice Guerrero can also be credited as the first judicial candidate to receive a cross-regional Unity Bar letter of endorsement. With the CRBA taking the lead to draft, the [letter of support](#) was submitted to the COJA in support of Justice Guerrero's hearing by the Sacramento Unity Bar Association, Kern County Unity Bar, Orange County Unity Bar Association and Central Valley Unity Bar Association.

This welcome news also makes us all the more excited for our upcoming event in honor of Justice Guerrero taking place on **September 22** at McGeorge School of Law in partnership with McGeorge's Latinx Law Students Association. We thank all of you who have already purchased tickets and are tremendously grateful to our sponsors! If you haven't yet, tickets are selling quickly and space is limited, so please [secure yours soon!](#)

Also, in this newsletter we continue to highlight some of your leaders on the Board, including Board Member **Noemi Nuñez Esparza** (who will serve as our moderator at the Justice Guerrero event). Finally, please mark your calendars for our upcoming Unity Bar Dinner hosted by the CRBA taking place on **November 10, 2022**. More details will be shared soon but for now, please save the date!

On behalf of the CRBA Board, we thank you all for your continued support and hope to see you soon at one of our events! Until then, stay cool and stay safe everyone!

Brian López
President
Cruz Reynoso Bar Association

**Not a 2022 member?
CLICK TO JOIN OR RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

[Click Here to View
Past Issues of the
CRBA Newsletter.](#)



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News & Announcements

The Cruz Reynoso Bar Association & The McGeorge Latinx Law Students Association's Event to Honor Justice Patricia Guerrero September 22, 2022



An Event to Honor
Justice Patricia Guerrero
The First Latina on the California Supreme Court
September 22, 2022
5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.
McGeorge School of Law
3200 Fifth Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95817

On August 10, 2022, **Governor Gavin Newsom** announced another historic development for our state's judiciary with his nomination of **Associate Justice Patricia Guerrero** to preside as the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court. Justice Guerrero also made history earlier this year in March when she was sworn in as the first Latina associate justice of the California Supreme Court.

Her nomination to sit as Chief Justice of our state's highest Court marks a tremendous moment for our community, our system of justice, and the state of California. The CRBA celebrates and applauds today's announcement as another example of the Governor's profound commitment to ensuring our judiciary better reflects the diversity of the people of our great state.

Justice Guerrero's backstory is familiar to many of us: As the daughter of Mexican immigrant farmworkers, Justice Guerrero committed herself to her education and to be of service to others in light of the great sacrifices and hardships her family faced to offer her a chance to succeed. Growing up in the Imperial Valley, she would attend UC Berkely for her undergraduate education and later graduate from Stanford Law School in 1997.

After a distinguished career as an Assistant US Attorney, private civil litigator and pro bono immigration and tenant advocate, she was appointed to serve on the San Diego Superior Court in 2013. Later in 2017, she became an associate justice of California's Fourth Appellate District, where she served until her appointment to the California Supreme Court earlier this year.

Commenting upon her appointment to the California Supreme Court, US Supreme Court Associate Justice **Sonia Sotomayor** personally wrote to Justice Guerrero with the following encouraging words of praise: "Your appointment is an important reminder of how far we have come and of how far we have yet to go. I know you will make our country proud. You already have."

Justice Guerrero's nomination to the Court, and now her nomination to serve as Chief Justice, is a step forward in terms of representation and diversity. Further, her long-time dedication to ensuring fair and equitable treatment under the law inspires us with confidence that she will continue to pursue these ideals. We look forward with enthusiastic anticipation and our unequivocal support as Justice Guerrero begins the confirmation process to serve as the Court's Chief Justice.

The CRBA will hold an event in honor of Justice Patricia Guerrero on September 22, 2022, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at McGeorge School of Law.

We look forward to offering our members the ability to know more about Justice Guerrero's life and the experiences which have motivated her throughout her career through a conversation with **Judge Ana De Alba** (Eastern District of California) and our Board Member **Noemi Nuñez Esparza**. Judicial Appointments Secretary **Luis Céspedes** will provide opening remarks.



Luis Céspedes
Judicial Appointments Secretary
Office of Governor Newsom

Hon. Ana de Alba
Judge of the U.S. District Court
Eastern District of California

Noemi Nuñez Esparza
Partner
Dreyer Babich Buccola Wood Campora

The event will include opening remarks by Secretary Céspedes, a panel discussion with Justice Guerrero and Judge de Alba moderated by Ms. Nuñez Esparza, and closing remarks by Justice Guerrero.

[Click Here to Order Tickets](#)

Or Visit CRBA's Website for Tickets:

www.CRBAasacramento.com

For sponsorship opportunities, email CRBA President Brian López at Brian.Lopez@me.com



CRBA Informal Happy Hour Series

The CRBA Informal Happy Hour Series is off to a great success. The first event in the Happy Hour series took place at The Bank on June 16, 2022. The second event was held jointly with SacLEGAL and took place at Drake’s The Barn on July 21, 2022. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Our next Happy Hour is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, October 20, 2022**, at The Bank. We look forward to seeing you at our future Happy Hour events.

UC Davis School of Law Seeks Legal Professionals to Judge Trial Competitions

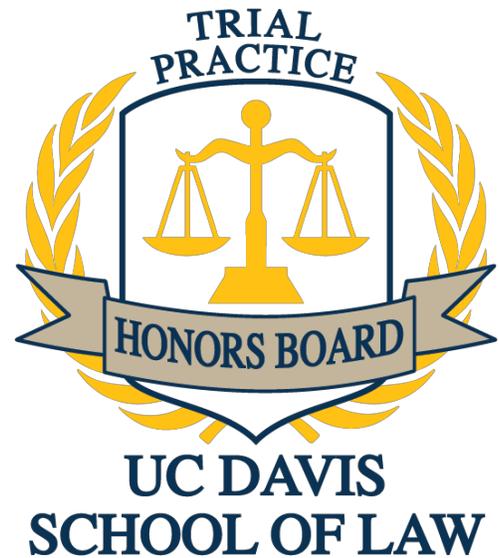
The UC Davis School of Law’s Trial Practice Honors Board (“TPHB”) provides students with the opportunity to hone their trial skills in a courtroom setting. TPHB is currently in the process of recruiting judges for two annual fall competitions and are seeking active and retired legal professionals to volunteer as a scoring or presiding judges in one or both competitions. Attorneys, judges, and other legal practitioners from all sectors are welcome.

1L Cota Competition - September 17 - 18, 2022

Martin Luther King Jr. National Civil Rights Trial Competition – October 14 - 16, 2022

If you are available to volunteer, please fill out this **Google form**.

<https://students.law.ucdavis.edu/trial-practice/>



and Conversation with the Directors



Selections from A Song for Cesar

On **September 8, 2022**, to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, the Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse in Sacramento and the Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse in Fresno held a special program screening of selections from *A Song for Cesar*, a documentary film about the music and art of the Cesar Chavez farmworkers movement. Directors Abel Sanchez and Andres Alegria discussed their film, which the *L.A. Times* declared a “labor of love that brings recent history into colorful and tuneful focus.” The event was sponsored by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of California co-sponsored by the Federal Bar Association Sacramento Chapter, La Raza Lawyers Association Central Valley Chapter, and the Cruz Reynoso Bar Association. To learn more about this documentary film, please visit the website <https://songforcesar.com>.



Questions about the Mentorship Program may be directed to CRBA Treasurer Mayra Sandoval at email4mayra@yahoo.com

CRBA 2022 Mentorship Program

Last year’s CRBA Mentorship Program was a huge success, with many law students successfully paired with mentors.

CRBA is now accepting applications for the 2022 Mentorship Program.

Interested in being a mentor?

[Click here to submit a mentor application.](#)

Interested in being a mentee?

[Click here to submit a mentee application.](#)

CRBA Member Directory

We want to thank all current CRBA members in good standing who expressed an interest in joining our upcoming CRBA Membership Directory. The CRBA Membership Directory will be an easy-to-reference resource which includes useful information for potential referrals and contacts related to our members’ individual areas of practice and specialization. Additionally, the directory will allow our members to support attorneys and other legal professionals from our community who have also demonstrated support for the mission and goals of the CRBA. We believe this perk will be a valuable tool to promote and connect with one another based upon our individual areas of expertise and comes at no additional cost with your yearly CRBA membership.

Please be on the lookout for the CRBA Membership Directory. We plan to issue it soon.



If you have any questions, please email CRBA Secretary Victoria Fernandez at victoriafernandez23@gmail.com



CRBA Secretary Joins Mendocino County District Attorney’s Office

We are proud to announce that CRBA Secretary **Victoria I. Fernandez** joined the Mendocino County District Attorney’s Office as a Deputy District Attorney.

During law school, Victoria learned about the great disparity in diversity for prosecutors and the impact a progressive prosecutor can have in equality and justice. Although she never imagined herself as a prosecutor, she interned at the Sacramento County District Attorney and at the Amador County District Attorney. During her internships, she discovered a passion for prosecution and the need for a bilingual Latina prosecutor to be the voice for the people of California and victims of crime. She decided to pursue her passion and started her new position on September 6.

Please join us in congratulating Victoria on her new position. *¡Felicidades, Victoria!*

Upcoming CRBA Events



CRUZ REYNOSO
BAR ASSOCIATION



McGeorge School of Law
Latinx Law Students Association



An Event to Honor
**Justice
Patricia Guerrero**
*The First Latina on the
California Supreme Court*

**September 22, 2022
5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.**

McGeorge School of Law
3200 Fifth Avenue
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Luis Céspedes
Judicial Appointments Secretary
Office of Governor Newsom

Hon. Ana de Alba
Judge of the U.S. District Court
Eastern District of California

Noemi Nuñez Esparza
Partner
Dreyer Babich Buccola Wood Campora

The event will include opening remarks by Secretary Céspedes, a panel discussion with Justice Guerrero and Judge de Alba moderated by Ms. Nuñez Esparza, and closing remarks by Justice Guerrero.

[Click Here to Order Tickets](#)

Or Visit CRBA's Website for Tickets: www.CRBA Sacramento.com

For sponsorship opportunities, email CRBA President Brian López at Brian.Lopez@me.com

**2022 Unity
Bar Dinner
November 10, 2022**

This year, CRBA is the host organization for this annual event. We look forward to working together with our sister organizations for this annual event.

Our theme is *Día de los Muertos*. We will honor the memories of distinguished jurists and attorneys whom the legal community has lost in recent years.

We are looking for event sponsors and volunteers to help with this event. If you are interested, please contact CRBA Vice-President Laura Neacato at Laura.Neacato@gmail.com

2022 Unity Bar Dinner
Save the Date

Thursday, November 10, 2022
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Sacramento, CA

Community Events



SAVE THE DATE
15th Annual
Diversity Law Student Reception
September 10, 2022 1-4 pm in Davis
Tentatively in person and more details to come
REMARKS BY:
Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Consuelo Callahan
Chief Justice of California Tani Cantil-Sakauye
Judicial Appointments Secretary Luis Céspedes



Please join United Latinos for our fundraiser at the ReUnion Kitchen and Bar!

Date and time

Wed, September 14, 2022
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM PDT

Location

ReUnion Kitchen and Bar
1028 2nd Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Come see and hear what United Latinos has accomplished this year in the community while socializing over delicious food and beverages. One ticket purchase will also get you a free year membership to our wonderful organization. We welcome new members and hope to see many new faces. The funds raised will allow United Latinos to continue to give back to the community and will also help United Latinos purchase the tools necessary for outreach. If you cannot attend, please consider donating your ticket to another community member.

Please purchase tickets via the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/united-latinos-fundraiser-reunion-kitchen-bar-tickets-401358041707>

PLEASE NOTE: There is very limited space available. Please buy your tickets ahead of time



FARM TO TABLE LUCHANDO POR JUSTICIA DINNER & GALA EVENT

SAVE THE
DATE

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

5:30PM



THE CALIFORNIA
MUSEUM
1020 O STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

CALIFORNIA
RURAL LEGAL
ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION



Please join us in celebrating **California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation's 40th anniversary** at this fall's Luchando Por Justicia! Luchando por Justicia brings together and pays tribute to individuals and organizations committed to helping rural Californians gain access to healthcare, safer and healthier neighborhoods and workplaces, educational opportunities, quality immigration and naturalization services, workers' rights, and other essential legal services.

This year, we have the **honor and privilege of recognizing Secretary Xavier Becerra, José Padilla, farmworker María Consuelo Gutierrez Aparicio**, as well as our **amazing staff and Board!**

Please purchase tickets via the link below:

<https://secure.givelively.org/event/c-r-l-a-foundation/luchando-por-justicia>

The poster features a dark blue background with a white border. The text is centered and reads "WLS ARTEFEST 2022" in a large, serif font. Below this, it says "Save the Date" and "9.29.22-10.1.22" in a smaller, serif font.

WLS ARTEFEST 2022

Save the Date
9.29.22-10.1.22



SACRAMENTO
FILIPINO AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO

SEAT
AT THE
TABLE
4TH ANNUAL GALA

October 6, 2022, 5pm
Our Place
1107 Firehouse Alley, Sacramento, 95814

Keynote by Rose Cuison-Villazor,
Rutgers Law Co-Dean

**EARLY BIRD TICKETS \$75 UNTIL SEPT. 22
AVAILABLE AT EVENTBRITE @ SACFALA GALA
OR BY EMAILING MAIL@SACFALA.ORG**

Purchase your tickets and/or sponsorships here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sacfala-seat-at-the-table-gala-tickets-401053861897?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

SAVE THE DATE

ABAS Annual Gala



OCTOBER — 27 — 2022

MOSAC
400 Jibboom St, Sacramento, CA 95811

Save THE *Date*

WILEY W. MANUEL
BAR ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS

LEGAL FUSION

2022

Celebrating a Lifetime of Service

Thursday

OCTOBER 27, 2022

THE FIREHOUSE RESTAURANT

1112 2ND ST, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

Meet the Board

With each newsletter, we are providing you an opportunity to meet one of our CRBA Board Members. In this issue, we are honored to feature:

Noemi Nuñez Esparza

Board Member

Joined CRBA Board in 2018



Noemi Nuñez Esparza is a partner with Dreyer Babich Buccola Wood Campora. She has tried cases throughout Northern California involving mild traumatic brain injury, catastrophic injury, and wrongful death. She has also handled a variety of cases from dog bite injuries and car collisions to child sexual abuse and premise liability cases. She has been selected as a Rising Star by the Northern California Super Lawyers from 2016-2019, recognized by San Francisco Magazine as one of Northern California's Outstanding Young Lawyers, and selected by Top Attorneys - Sacramento's Outstanding Young Lawyers. She is also active with the Consumer Attorneys of California in its effort to effect positive change in the law as it relates to consumer rights and the rights of injured victims to obtain justice. Prior to becoming an attorney, she has worked for a political fundraising firm, the legislature, and for a domestic violence non-profit organization.

Dear CRBA Members:

We want to hear from you, and we want to celebrate your achievements in our newsletter. Please send us any noteworthy news and announcements, or information about upcoming events. Please keep it short (150 words or less). If you are interested in submitting news, announcements, or events for CRBA's newsletter, please contact CRBA President Brian López at Brian.Lopez@me.com

Employment Opportunities

California Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) seeks Administrative Law Judges. The ALRB seeks candidates for two open ALJ positions. For more information about the requirements, application process and other details, please see the ALRB ALJ Job posting on the CalCareers website. Many thanks for sharing to our Board Member and ALRB Executive Secretary, Santiago Avila Gómez.

See posting: <https://www.calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControlId=326057>

2022 CRBA Members

JUDICIAL MEMBERS: Judge George Acero, Judge Blanca Bañuelos, Judge Gus Barrera II, Judge David W. Bonilla, Judge Sonia Cortés, Justice Elena Duarte, Judge David De Alba, Judge Alberto Roldan, Judge Frank Perez Tays (Ret.), Judge Kara Ueda, Judge Emily Vasquez (Ret.) ● **SUSTAINING MEMBERS:** Santiago Avila-Gomez, Joe Ayala, Jose Borrego, Gabriel Campos, Judge David De Alba, Noemi Esparza, Eddie Garnica, Melinda Guzman, Winthrop Brian Hedrick, Paul Hoybjerg, Clemente Jiménez, Ralph Lightstone, Brian Lopez, Paulo C. Lopez, Jesse Rivera, Cynthia Rodriguez, Alberto T. Rosas, Megan Virga ● **HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER:** Len ReidReynoso ● **MEMBERS:** Raquel E. Aldana, Christina Anton, Eric Arias, Emanuel Avila Martin, Lisa Blanco Jimenez, Monica Brushia, Alexandria M. Chacon, Juan Cornejo, Bianca Duenas, Blanca Espinoza, Victoria I. Fernandez, Felipe Garcia, Romulo Lopez, Vilma Lopez, Daniela N. Lopez-Garcia, Cecilia L. Martin, Lance Martin, Mike Mireles, Michelle M. Mitchell, Lewis Munoz, Laura Neacato, Quirina Orozco, Gerardo Partida, Gloria Perez-Stewart, F. Javier Plasencia, Fernando Reyes, Andres Rico, Kendra Rivas, Michelle Rosales, Elizabeth Sandoval, Mayra Sandoval, Dina Santos, Martin Tejeda, Michael Vargas, Julie A. Westerling, Sarah Woolston, Esmeralda Zendejas ● **LAW STUDENT MEMBERS:** Ivette Arriaga, Cecilia Bosque, Michel Carlyle, Jorge Casanova, Leslie Estrada Flynn, Stephanie Lopez, Roberto P. Moreno, David A. Ureno

We thank all our current members for their continued support.

[Not a 2022 member? Don't wait. CLICK TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!](#)

CRUZ REYNOSO BAR ASSOCIATION

2022 Board of Directors

www.CRBAasacramento.com

Brian López, President

Laura Neacato, Vice-President

Mayra Sandoval, Treasurer

Victoria Fernandez, Secretary

Santiago Avila-Gomez, Board Member

Eduardo Garnica, Board Member

Noemi Nuñez Esparza, Board Member

Alberto Rosas, Board Member

Joe Ayala, General Counsel



Many CRBA events are free to attend. Your donations make these events possible.

Your donations also help us provide generous scholarships to local law students.

[Please click here to DONATE to CRBA.](#)

(CRBA is a 501(c)(6) organization and donations are not tax deductible as charitable contributions but may be deductible as a firm's trade or business expense. Consult your tax advisor.)