



CRUZ REYNOSO BAR ASSOCIATION

CRBA Newsletter, Vol. 1, Issue No. 1

May 9, 2022

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



Saludos y bienvenidos to the inaugural issue of the CRBA's monthly newsletter! We are excited to offer to our members and supporters this convenient way to stay informed on the latest news about events, activities, and other important updates about the organization. We will also highlight ways to connect with one another, get involved in initiatives we are working on, and get to know our organization's leadership and members. Our hope is that you will find this information useful and informative as to both how your support has allowed our organization to grow and expand, as well as interesting and exciting ways to engage with us, in pursuit of the CRBA's mission of service.

As we strive to carry forward the legacy of equality, advancement and equity championed by the late Justice Reynoso, we are proud to say that we have the support of each and every one of you and, for that, we offer our sincerest thanks and gratitude. We hope you enjoy the newsletter (with special thanks to Board Member Administrative Law Judge Alberto Rosas for leading this project) and we encourage you to look out for other important updates about other projects (such as our Membership Directory and improving access to CRBA-related resources/information on our website) we have in development.

Also, we look forward to seeing you soon at one of our upcoming events and activities throughout the 2022 year, including the annual Unity Bar Dinner 2022 in which the CRBA will be this year's host organization! *Miles de gracias de nuevo* to all of our members and supporters and remember to look out for next month's newsletter in your e-mail and on our website!

Brian López
President
Cruz Reynoso Bar Association



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News & Announcements



See more photos on page 13.

For those who could not join us, the video is available at the General Consulate of Mexico, Sacramento's Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=watch_permalink&v=1607263702977159

Thank you to all attendees, as well as our host and sponsors.

Special thanks to our event planning committee: President **Brian López**, Vice President **Laura Neacato**, Board Member ALJ **Alberto Rosas**, and members **Esmeralda Zendejas** and **Sarah Woolston**!

CRBA's *Defensora de Justicia* Event

May 5, 2022

On the evening of May 5, 2022, the CRBA held its 2022 *Defensora de Justicia* event in honor of Judge **Emily E. Vásquez** (Ret.) at the General Consulate of Mexico in Sacramento. Judge Vásquez (who retired earlier this year after serving for over 20 years on the Sacramento County Superior Court as its first Latina judge) received this award as our first *Defensora de Justicia* due to her life-long dedication to the ideals and mission of our organization, including service to one's community, increasing access to justice, and leadership as a legal professional. As indicated in the flyer below, the program featured a number of special speakers, including Judicial Appointments Secretary **Luis Céspedes** who recounted that Judge Vásquez was honored early in her career as an attorney at the first Unity Bar Dinner in 1987.

Each speaker offered personal stories and insight as to the number of ways in which they have witnessed and experienced the qualities which make Judge Vásquez (a close and dear friend of the late Justice Reynoso in whose legacy this award was created) a worthy recipient of this honor. Judge Vásquez's own gracious words also served to inspire and delight as she recounted the early days in her career as a "troublemaker" attorney, her efforts to mentor and promote the next generation of attorneys and professionals, as well as the leadership she has pursued to advance equality, equity and access to justice as a jurist and pillar of our legal community. Born in Mexico and moving to Lodi, CA as a young girl where she worked in the field alongside her parents, Judge Vásquez's prescient knowledge at that young age that she would one day fulfill her dream to become a judge (where she would have a job "in the shade" as her parents encouraged of her) is truly a story of great inspiration. This is particularly true given all her tireless efforts that have not only made Judge Vásquez such a well-respected, admired and cherished member of our community, but in ways that serve to further expand upon the legacy of Justice Reynoso and his infamous "justice bone". The CRBA congratulates and extends its sincerest gratitude to Judge Vásquez for her legacy of service and commitment to these ideals that have made her a *Defensora de Justicia*!

Also, in honor of Justice Reynoso's legacy serving as the inspiration for this award, this year marks the first year in which we began a new tradition of holding the event in the month of May to commemorate the month of his birth and passing. Additionally, in homage to Justice Reynoso's legacy of mentorship, we continued the tradition we began last year in awarding a *Defensor de Justicia* scholarship to a law student who also embodies those principles and ideals that make up the next generation of leaders working towards social justice. This year's *Defensora de Justicia* scholarship award recipient was **Anadelia Dominguez**, a 3L at UC Davis King Hall School of Law, who is also profiled in this month's newsletter.



Presiding Justice Vance Raye
Third District Court of Appeals



Judge Shama Mesiwala
Sacramento Superior Court



Judge David De Alba
Sacramento Superior Court



Luis Céspedes
California Judicial Appointments Secretary



Liliana Ferrer, Consul General
Consulate General of México en Sacramento



Amagda Pérez, Executive Director
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation



Alberto T. Rosas
Administrative Law Judge



Richard Soto, Founder
Chicano Research Center of Stockton





This tremendous moment in California's history was captured on video and is available to view on YouTube.

Justice Patricia Guerrero
Swearing-in Ceremony
YouTube link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWSA_gux8fl

Justice Patricia Guerrero Sworn In March 28, 2022

On Monday, March 28, 2022, the first Latina associate justice was sworn in to her seat on the California Supreme Court in Sacramento by Governor Gavin Newsom.

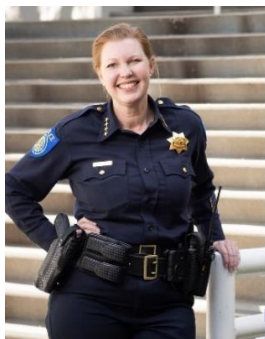
The ceremony for Justice **Patricia Guerrero** featured remarks from Judicial Appointments Secretary **Luis Céspedes**, Chief Justice **Tani Cantil-Sakauye**, Justice Guerrero, and a few of her close colleagues.

As indicated in the "Upcoming CRBA Events" section of this newsletter, CRBA will host an event to celebrate Justice Guerrero's appointment. If you are interested in being an event sponsor, please contact Brian López at Brian.Lopez@me.com

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson Confirmed as First Black Woman to U.S. Supreme Court April 7, 2022

Judge **Ketanji Brown Jackson** made history on April 7 when she became the first black woman confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court. The senate confirmed Judge Jackson 53-47.

CRBA applauded President Biden's nomination of Judge Jackson, and we now applaud this historic confirmation. Judge Jackson will likely be sworn-in this summer after Justice Stephen Breyer retires.



May 7th 2022 2 P.M. Town Hall Ask the Chief

Registration is required:
<https://bit.ly/37pR04a>



La Familia
COUNSELING CENTER



50th SACRAMENTO
HISPANIC
COMMUNITY
CENTER

3301 37th AVE., SACRAMENTO CA 95820

"Ask the Chief" Town Hall May 7, 2022

On May 7, 2022, CRBA co-hosted this "Ask the Chief" town hall in Sacramento. We heard from Sacramento Police Chief Kathy Lester. Thank you to all of you who attended.

For those of you who missed it, you can view the town hall here:
<https://www.facebook.com/MidtownGeorge/videos/524133586032603/>



McGeorge Latinx Law Students Association's Spring Gala April 22, 2022

CRBA Board Member **Alberto Rosas** was one of the guest speakers at this April spring gala. The gala celebrated the achievements of the Latinx law students who will receive their law degrees from McGeorge School of Law this year. Between 100 to 120 people attended the gala, including law students, family, friends, and guests. The audience was treated to live music from a mariachi trio, delicious authentic Mexican cuisine, and a performance of *ballet folklórico* from a folkloric dance ensemble.

During his motivational and inspirational speech titled "A Better Tomorrow," Alberto Rosas said: "If it had been easy, you would not be the person you are today. Your life experiences, good and bad, made you who you are. Your journey has made you you. You have overcome struggles and obstacles, and you are better for it. You know that no matter what life throws at you, you will pick yourselves up, dust yourselves off, and keep moving forward toward a better tomorrow."

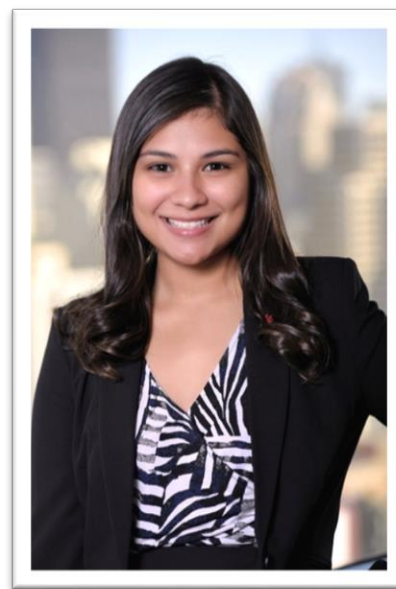
We wish the Class of 2022 the best on the upcoming Bar exam and in their legal careers.

2022 *Defensora de Justicia* Scholarship Recipient May 5, 2022

"I am both honored and humbled to have been selected as the recipient of the 2022 *Defensora de Justicia* Scholarship. I am a first-generation law student at King Hall. I grew up in the small agricultural town of Huron, California and am the proud daughter of two immigrant parents.

"I came to law school with the intention of helping the Latinx community. While at King Hall, I served on the boards of the Latinx Law Students Association, the First-Generation Advocates and was a symposium editor for the Immigration and Nationality Law Review. I was also a board member of Central Valley Coalition, an organization that focuses on the unique legal needs of the Central Valley. I also joined the Immigration Law Clinic where I represented indigent immigrants.

"Upon graduation, I plan to practice employment law in the Central Valley, where I hope to represent Spanish-speaking immigrants and other vulnerable workers."



Anadelia Dominguez
Juris Doctor Candidate, May 2022
University of California Davis School of Law

Inaugural Unity Bar Summit 2022: Access to Justice

We share exciting news about the upcoming inaugural Unity Bar Summit. The Unity Bar Summit: Access to Justice will feature keynote speakers such as Chief Justice **Tani Cantil-Sakauye** and Associate Justice **Martin J. Jenkins** of the California Supreme Court, as well as Judicial Appointments Secretary **Luis A. Céspedes**.

Other featured speakers will include Unity Bar of Sacramento co-founders **Jerry Chong** and Judge **Renard Shepard** (ret.), Judge **Shama Mesiwala** of the Sacramento Superior Court Judicial Mentor Program, Judge **Barbara A. Kronlund** of the San Joaquin Superior Court Judicial Mentor Program, 2021 SCBA Attorney of the Year **Jesse Morris**, representatives from Unity Bar and other affinity organizations throughout the state, as well as other special invited guests.

The Unity Bar of Sacramento founded over 30 years ago has left an indelible mark upon the legal landscape in our area and beyond. Through our coalition of affiliate organizations, we have made progress never thought possible in terms of representation, increasing access to justice and support of one another in our common goals of achieving equity and equality for all. This success has resulted in Unity Bar organizations modeled after our own forming recently throughout the state

in jurisdictions as close as San Joaquin County and as far as Ventura County.

We are happy to be a proud co-sponsor of this event which will no doubt serve as an important milestone not only in terms of increasing the impact and influence of the Unity Bar and its affiliate members in pursuing our common goals and initiatives, but also in continuing to expand upon the successes of the Unity Bar model as a mechanism for achieving social justice as legal professionals through collective effort and support.

The Unity Bar Summit is a FREE, in-person event on **Saturday, May 21, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at King Hall (UC Davis School of Law).

Limited Attendance: Due to the nature of this event and capacity limitations at the venue, attendance is limited to the president, president-elect, or designee from each coalition or affinity bar association. Although this event will be streamed virtually, in-person attendance is strongly encouraged.

Please contact Cindy Liu at cindyliu@gmail.com to RSVP (specify if you will be joining us in person or virtually) or with any questions.

SAVE THE DATE

**UNITY BAR SUMMIT
"ACCESS TO JUSTICE"**

SPEAKERS:

HON. TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE
CHIEF JUSTICE OF CALIFORNIA,
SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA



HON. MARTIN J. JENKINS
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE,
SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA



LUIS A. CÉSPEDES
JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS SECRETARY,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



SATURDAY MAY 21, 2022
UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF LAW (KING HALL)





Questions about CRBA's Mentorship Program may be directed to 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.](#)

Law Student Testimonial, CRBA Mentorship Program

"I am a first-generation law student at McGeorge School of Law. The CRBA Mentorship Program connected me to Administrative Law Judge Alberto Rosas. I am the first of my family to become an attorney and have felt alone facing the challenges of my final year of law school. Learning to navigate applications for post-bar employment, interviews, and correspondence with employers has been overwhelming.

"Judge Rosas met with me every month and listened to my questions. He provided me with advice and gave me options on plans of action that helped to further my employment goals. He also reminded me of the importance of bravery and remembering that despite my doubts I deserve to be in each place I have achieved. The CRBA Mentorship Program connected me to a kind and welcoming mentor who helped to guide me towards my goals."



Marisa Gonzalez

Juris Doctor Candidate, May 2022

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

Sacramento
District Attorney
Candidates Forum
Hosted by
Cruz Reynoso Bar Association
&
United Latinos
Wednesday March 9 - 12pm to 1:30 pm
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sacramento-district-attorney-candidates-forum-tickets-288365718627>

Alana Matthews
Thien Ho

Questions about CRBA's Political Affairs Committee may be directed to Joe Ayala at jja@comcast.net

Sacramento D.A. Candidates Forum March 9, 2022

CRBA and United Latinos co-hosted a question-and-answer virtual forum featuring the two candidates for the office of District Attorney in Sacramento County in this year's election.

Thien Ho and Alana Matthews joined us to offer their thoughts and stances on various issues related to the duties and responsibilities of the District Attorney, including access to justice, inequities in the criminal justice system, and other issues impacting the Latino and wider community.

Upcoming CRBA Events



Event to Honor Justice Guerrero

Date TBD

We are happy to announce that Justice **Patricia Guerrero** has graciously and humbly accepted an invitation from CRBA to participate in an event hosted by our organization to celebrate her appointment, as well as to welcome her to the Court and the Sacramento area. We look forward to offering all of you an opportunity to welcome Justice Guerrero into this historic appointment as a judicial pioneer in our community.

We are looking for event sponsors and volunteers to help with this event. If you are interested, please contact Brian López at Brian.Lopez@me.com



CRBA Panel Presentation:

"You Can Be a Lawyer. Sí Se Puede!"

Saturday, May 14, 2022, 8am to 3pm

UC Davis will celebrate the life and legacy of César Chavez by hosting its UC Davis César Chavez Youth Leadership Conference.

See flyer on page 10.

CRBA will participate by offering informational panel sessions entitled, "You Can Be a Lawyer! Sí Se Puede!" The three individual one-hour panel sessions begin at **10:30 am, 11:30 am, and 12:30 pm.**

<https://idea.ucdavis.edu/sisepuede>

Are you interested in serving as a panelist?
Contact Brian López at Brian.Lopez@me.com



CRBA Informal Happy Hour Series

Date TBD

Join CRBA Board Members and other members for the first event of the CRBA Informal Happy Hour Series. We will meet regularly throughout the year at different locations in Sacramento and Yolo counties. These are informal social events. We look forward to seeing you and connecting with our wonderful CRBA members. ¡Salud!



Lights! Camera! Attorneys!

Coming Soon (Date TBD)

CRBA Board Member **Alberto Rosas** presents this fun and informative presentation, which focuses on the legal lessons and nuggets of wisdom that you can learn from the movies. Through an engaging discussion of blockbusters and fan-favorites, this MCLE presentation provides attendees with a cinematic montage about legal ethics, civility, and the practice of law.

Although designed for law students and newer attorneys, audiences of all experience levels will enjoy this creative and exciting presentation.

Come join CRBA and enjoy the show!



Unity Bar Reception

November 2022 (Date TBD)

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 Laura Neacato at Laura.Neacato@gmail.com

Community Events Flyers



**AMERICAN BOARD OF
TRIAL ADVOCATES**
SACRAMENTO VALLEY CHAPTER

Save the Date
Annual Judicial Reception
May 11, 2022 | 5:30pm - 7:00pm
At the home of John Demas

Registration information coming soon. Event address will be provided upon receipt of registration.

You are cordially invited to attend our
Annual Judicial Reception

Honoring
2022 Judge of the Year
Hon. Emily Vasquez
Superior Court of Sacramento (Retired)

and also honoring
2020 Judicial Assistant of the Year
Kim Harding
Superior Court of Placer County

20th Annual **Cesar CHAVEZ**
YOUTH LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE *and* CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, MAY 14 2022

8am - 3pm

University Credit Union Center



- College admissions, financial aid, scholarships, health and stem workshops, college resource fair, UC Davis campus tours and more
- Free college and career motivational event for high school and community college, middle school, students and their parents
- Live cultural entertainment, music and performances
- Free admission and parking

UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Learn more at:

idea.ucdavis.edu/sisepuede

#CCYLC2022



Honoring our Past, Planning Our Future

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF
WLS

May 19, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Cocktail Hour followed by Panel Discussion

**Pacific McGeorge School of Law
3200 Fifth Ave., Sacramento, CA 95817**

Find us on the Quad

WLS' 60th Anniversary Celebration.
Tickets are limited.

Sponsorship opportunities available!

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/60th-anniversary-celebration-tickets-317167094317>



Photos from Defensora de Justicia Event



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:



Joe Ayala

General Counsel

Joined CRBA Board in 2021

Joe Ayala's legal career includes over 30 years with the Office of the Legislative Counsel, where he held multiple positions, including Acting Chief Deputy. He lectured in Ukraine in 2011 and in Armenia in 2014 as part of the Office's Professional Fellows Program. Mr. Ayala retired in 2020 as a Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel II. But retirement has not slowed him down. His volunteer activities include serving on the board of trustees of the California Indian Legal Services Corp, serving as general counsel to the Sacramento Lowrider Commission, and serving as vice president of the Sacramento Area Tennis Association. He previously held multiple positions with CRBA's predecessor, the Sacramento La Raza Lawyers Association. He returned to CRBA in 2021 to serve as CRBA's general counsel.

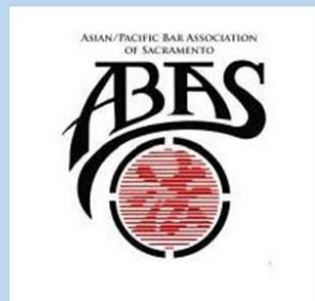
Dear CRBA Members:

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. Keep it short (100 words or less), and it would be helpful if you can include a photograph or image to accompany the announcement.

Interested in submitting news, announcements, or events for CRBA's newsletter?

Please contact Brian López at Brian.Lopez@me.com

We thank our *Defensora de Justicia* event sponsors.



2022 CRBA Members

JUDICIAL MEMBERS: Judge David W. Bonilla, 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, Alberto Rosas, Megan Virga **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, Michelle M. Mitchell, Laura Neacato, Quirina Orozco, Gerardo Partida, F. Javier Plasencia, Andres Rico, Elizabeth Sandoval, Mayra Sandoval, Dina Santos, Martin Tejeda, Julie A. Westerling, Sarah Woolston, Esmeralda Zendejas **LAW STUDENT MEMBERS:** Ivette Arriaga, 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

Noemi Esparza, Board Member

Eduardo Garnica, 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.)

CRBA and the scholarship recipients greatly appreciate your generosity.

Thank you.