

...news, events, cle courses, jobs, scholarships, etc...



# PRBA

## PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION



"By mutual confidence and mutual aid, great deeds are done, and great discoveries made."

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A New York Based Association Of Attorneys, Judges, Professors, Law Students & Qualified Paralegals.

Compiled and written by  
Antonio Seda, Esq. — V.P., PRBA

FEBRUARY 2008

**COMING SOON!**  
PRBA's "LA VOZ"  
Spring Newsletter

### PRBA GALA

The PRBA's 51st Annual Gala will be held on Thursday, June 5th at the Marriott Marquis (same location as last year). More info to follow. Please volunteer to join in the efforts to make this Gala successful and fun.

### PRBA Scholarship

#### Applications

Applications for the PRBA's Law School Scholarship Awards are available online at our website — just a click away on our homepage. Please note that the application deadline has been extended to March 29, 2008. Please spread the word.

### FEBRUARY PRBA Gen'l Membership Meeting

The PRBA's next General Membership Meeting will be in Brooklyn on February 26, 2008.

Check: [www.prba.net/pdfs/PRBA\\_Mtg\\_26Feb08.pdf](http://www.prba.net/pdfs/PRBA_Mtg_26Feb08.pdf)

### CLE & Small Claims Arbitrators Program Feb. 28, 2008 in Bronx

[www.prba.net/pdfs/Small\\_Claims\\_Arbitration\\_CLE.pdf](http://www.prba.net/pdfs/Small_Claims_Arbitration_CLE.pdf)

### JUDGES BEING HONORED...

On March 19, 2008, the PRBA, the Brooklyn Bar Association (BBA) and other bar associations will jointly host a celebration honoring the four newly appointed Judges to the App. Div., 2d Dept., including our own Justice Ariel E. Belen (venue - BBA; more details to follow) Check: [www.prba.net](http://www.prba.net).

## An Interesting Week in the NYLJ (After Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday)

We may be a small percentage of the bar, but we are becoming increasingly visible and contributing more than ever to the field of law as evidenced by the New York Law Journal's publications during the week of January 21st. There was coverage of many items involving or affecting Hispanics and quite a few made it to the front page, adding to other recent front page coverage of the nomination and appointments of Justice Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Justice Rolando T. Acosta and Justice Ariel E. Belen.

### New York Law Journal

A front page article entitled "Panel Upholds Taping Without Consent" focused on *People v. Clark*. In that case, a 2-1 majority of the Appellate Term, Second Department, (which included Justice Ariel E. Belen in the majority) held that a tape recording made by an infant's mother without any consent (she placed a recorder in her 7 year old autistic child's backpack) was admissible in a criminal case against a school-bus monitor who was charged with endangering the welfare of the child. The court found that the mother could consent on behalf of her minor child where there was a "good-faith, objectively reasonable basis" to believe her action was necessary for her child's welfare. (Featured January 23rd; full decision published Monday, January 28, 2008.)

Another front page story was "Surrogate Clarifies Inheritance Rights of Adopted Child." This feature discussed Surrogate Margarita Lopez Torres' decision in *Estate of Johnson* in which the Surrogate interpreted DRL Section 117(1)(e) within

the context of a woman who was adopted at birth by her paternal aunt. The Surrogate ruled that a child adopted by a close family member maintains his or her inheritance ties to their natural family and thus the woman in that case could inherit her birth mother's estate. (Featured January 22nd; full decision published Friday, January 25, 2008.)

A large portion of "The Back Page" feature was devoted to "A Common Obligation — Attorneys from New York and Latin America Boost Pro Bono Efforts South of the Border" as well as "Accolades" covering, among other things, The Hispanic Heritage Awards Dinner sponsored by the Association of Judges of Hispanic Heritage, Columbia Law Dean David M. Schizer and the Latino/a Law Students' Association. (Appeared Friday, January 25, 2008.)

Perhaps the most interesting story, however, was another front paged article entitled "System Dilutes Hispanic Votes, Court Decides." This article discussed Southern District Judge Stephen C. Robinson's ruling in *United States v. Village of Port Chester*, where he held that the Village's system of electing its board of trustees violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 because it diluted the votes of Hispanics who make up a plurality there. Among other things, the Court found that there is some history of official discrimination in Port Chester which continues to affect the rights of Hispanics to participate in the electoral process, that the election system limits the opportunities for Hispanics to participate in the political process and elect candidates of their choice, and that there was a racial appeal against Hispanics in a recent campaign. (Featured January 23rd; full decision published Monday, January 28, 2008.) ■



*Diana Sen (PRBA Board Member), Justice Rolando T. Acosta (Appellate Division, 1st Dept.), Antonio Seda (PRBA Vice President), Justice Dawn M. Jiminez, Justice George R. Villegas, Roseanne Ciparick (for Justice Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick of the Court of Appeals), Justice Frederick C. Arriaga, Maria Matos (PRBA President-Elect), Edward Flores (PRBA President), and Justice Ariel E. Belen (Appellate Division, 2d Dept.) at the 2008 Three Kings Day Event.*

## Recent Events

### Three Kings Day Event

On January 3, 2008, the PRBA and the Association of Judges of Hispanic Heritage (AJHH) celebrated its annual Three Kings Day Celebration at Rosa Mexicano's Union Square location. The event was well attended with about 150 attendees honoring the following newly elected or appointed judges: Justice Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Justice Ariel E. Belen, Justice Rolando T. Acosta, Justice George R. Villegas, Justice Frederick C. Arriaga, and Justice Dawn M. Jiminez. Congratulations to our honorees.

Special thanks goes to Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, which continues to generously

sponsor this great event, as well as Tom Allocco, PRBA board member and Fried Frank associate Diana Sen's stepfather, who has provided his artwork for the event's invitation for the past few years. We also thank all those involved in coordinating and supporting this event and note that a photo from the event appeared in the New York Law Journal.

### ASPIRA's 15th Annual Youth Conference

The PRBA joined PRLDEF at ASPIRA's 15th Annual City Youth Conference held at John Jay College on January 19th. Approximately 600 students came to the youth conference to take advantage of its Resource Center and College Fair. The PRBA membership includes

a number of Aspirantes including Justice Betsy Barros, Justice Dora L. Irizarry, Justice Sallie Manzanet-Daniels, Justice Ruben A. Martino, Justice Lucindo Suarez, Luis R. Burgos, Jr., Luis N. Colon, William Galarza, Anibal R. Garcia, Ernesto Marrero, Jr., and Marlin Segarra.

PRBA Board Member Luis Colon conducted a workshop on how ASPIRA helped him and others in their development as professionals and leaders. Antonio Seda joined Jose Perez, Sonji Patrick and others of PRLDEF to speak to students interested in the law.

### Upcoming PRBA CLE — Arbitrator Certification

The Civil Court of the City of New York Association of Arbitrators and the PRBA will present a Small Claims Court Arbitrators Training program on Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Bronx Civil Court, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 701 A. For more info regarding qualifications and requirements go to calendar feature at: [www.prba.net](http://www.prba.net). or contact Gina Asselin, Bronx County Small Claims at 718-410-7594 or Maria Matos of the PRBA at 718-590-3596.

### Upcoming Events

Keep apprised of upcoming events in our community just by clicking the "new calendar feature" found on the homepage of the PRBA website: [www.prba.net](http://www.prba.net).

The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc. is celebrating 25 years of nurturing new generations with its "A Slice of Latin America 25th Anniversary Gala" on February 26, 2008 at 6:00PM at the Roosevelt Hotel in NYC. This organization has many successful programs which help our community and directly serves over 16,000 children and families annually. For more info go to <http://www.chcfinc.org/>.

One Stop Senior Services is a community-based organization serving the city's senior citizens for over 25 years; most of its clients are poor, on fixed incomes and Latino. It is hosting a theater benefit on Febru-

*Celebrating Three Kings Day*





ary 27th at the Richard Rogers Theater: “In the Heights” — Broadway’s acclaimed new musical about life in New York City’s Washington Heights. For more info and to RSVP go to [www.onestopseniorservices.org](http://www.onestopseniorservices.org); click on “Donate through NY Charities;” and then click “View upcoming events...” on the subsequent page.

The Harbor Conservatory for the Performing Arts, a division of Boys & Girls Harbor, will be hosting its 4th Annual Winter Heat Latin Dance Party on March 4, 2008 at Cipriani 23rd Street. For more info go to <http://www.harborconservatory.org/>

The 2008 HNBA Mid-Year Conference and National Moot Court Competition (Latinos on Wall Street — Shaping America’s Future through Law and Finance) will take place on March 13-15, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza in NYC. Go to <http://www.hnba.com/> for more info.

### Items of Interest

This year, Janet Murguía, President and CEO of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), became the first Hispanic to give the keynote speech at Birmingham’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast (one of the nation’s leading events celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) An excerpted version of her speech is available at [http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view\\_article.html?article\\_id=f7e8c995c50ed87ed3d905bbcl5891a4](http://news.newamericamedia.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=f7e8c995c50ed87ed3d905bbcl5891a4)

The Justice Action Center at New York Law School recently issued a report entitled “The Higher Cost of Being African-American or Latino: Subprime Home Mortgage Lending in New York City, 2004-2005. For a copy go to:

<http://www.nyls.edu/pdfs/highercost.pdf>

Diversity report cards for big firms. For info on large private law firms’ self-reported data on pro bono participation, demographic diversity and billable hours go to [www.betterlegalprofession.org](http://www.betterlegalprofession.org)

Career Women’s Initiative is a research, consulting and networking organization that serves individual women and employers, working with both to uncover and address the barriers to women’s advancement in the workplace. <http://www.careerwomensinitiative.com/about.html>

The U.S. Census Bureau’s Recent Facts and Figures on the Hispanic or Latino Population are available at: <http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/NEWhispMLI.html>

Jose B. Rivera covers East Harlem and its institutions, residents, history, events and lots more at <http://www.east-harlem.com/>

### Job Opportunities & Legal Internships

Many job opportunities have recently been posted on the PRBA yahooogroup. To get info on these

opportunities and to keep abreast of new opportunities as they arise, join our yahooogroup through our website’s link at the bottom of our homepage [www.prba.net](http://www.prba.net)

### Scholarships & Other Internships

PRBA Law School Scholarships. Info and application on our website. Deadline March 29, 2008.

[www.prba.net](http://www.prba.net)

Info on many law school scholarships available from “outside sources” can be found through various law school web sites-- for example, Brooklyn Law School has “A Guide to Outside Sources” obtainable at

<http://www.brooklaw.edu/financialaid/private.php> and UC Davis School of Law has an “Outside Agency Scholarships” listing at [http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/financialAid/files/0708\\_LawSchpList.pdf](http://www.law.ucdavis.edu/financialAid/files/0708_LawSchpList.pdf)

QuestBridge is a non-profit program that links bright, motivated low-income students with educational and scholarship opportunities at some of the nation’s best colleges. It has various programs with proven achievement. Go to:

<http://www.questbridge.org/index.html>

The 2008 Paying for College Student Resource Guide is now available; to download the guide go to: [http://www.house.gov/roybal-allard/2008\\_Resource\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.house.gov/roybal-allard/2008_Resource_Guide.pdf)

Visit <http://www.yearup.org/> for info about Paid Internship/Training Program for Youth. Year Up is an intensive one-year training program for young adults ages 18 to 24 who provide Fortune 100 companies like Merrill Lynch, American Express, Lehman Brothers and Bank of America with Information Technology entry level talent. Year Up is currently recruiting students.

The Future Latino Leaders Law Camp is a week-long program held by the HNBF in Washington, DC which provides 25 Latino high school students with the opportunity to go to Washington and learn more about the college application process, meet influential Latino

leaders, tour national monuments and various government agencies and learn more about the legal profession. For more info go to [www.hnbf.org](http://www.hnbf.org) and/or contact Alexander Steffler, Program Coordinator, at [asteffler@hnbf.org](mailto:asteffler@hnbf.org).

## Volunteer and/or Make a Contribution

The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc. (celebrating 25 years of nurturing new generations) provides a number of programs and services to our community in the areas of Youth Development, Child Care Services, and Family Health Education. Grounded in its direct services, CHCF is active in the local, state and national policy arenas around issues of child welfare and the well-being of Latino children. To find out more and provide support and/or make a contribution go to <http://www.chcfinc.org/>

Since 1976, the Andrew Glover Youth Program, Inc. has helped thousands of young people (mainly Puerto Rican) get a second chance in life and gain control of and direct their own lives in a positive, law abiding manner. Its two programs (Lower East Side & East Harlem) serve at-risk youth and youthful offenders and its success rate is over 80%. Ángel Rodríguez, recipient of the Hero Award from the Rob-inhood Foundation, has been the Executive Director almost since inception. To find out more and provide support and/or make a contribution go to <http://www.agyp.org/>

The 2nd Annual Hispanic National Bar Association-NY Region Mentoring Program Kickoff was recently hosted by Fernando A. Bohorquez, Jr. at Baker Hostetler. To participate in this program contact [hnbanymentor-ing@yahoo.com](mailto:hnbanymentor-ing@yahoo.com) or [natacha\\_carbajal@nyeb.uscourts.gov](mailto:natacha_carbajal@nyeb.uscourts.gov)

The Practicing Attorneys for Law Students Program (PALS) is looking for New York based attorneys to serve as mentors for minority law student members. There are

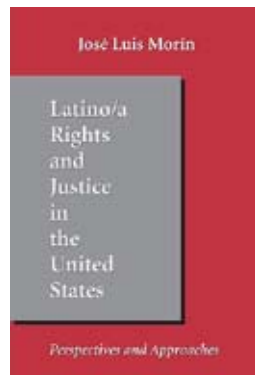
still over 100 law students who are unmatched and requesting a mentor. Sign up at [www.palsprogram.org](http://www.palsprogram.org) by selecting the "Join" tab.

The Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice is a Brooklyn public high school making a difference in the lives of young people (mainly minorities) interested in the law. The school is looking for volunteers to assist with its Law Day, Moot Court and Lunches with Lawyers programs. Go to the school's website at [www.sljhs.org/index.htm](http://www.sljhs.org/index.htm) and contact Joe Pinto, Director of Partnerships & Development, at [jpinto@sljhs.org](mailto:jpinto@sljhs.org)

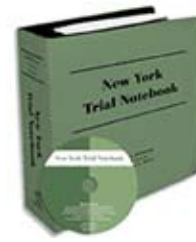
Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC (BBBS) serves over 2500 mentoring matches each year. The program currently has over 150 Latino Boys waiting for a Big Brother, but only 35 Latino Men have volunteered. Contact BBBS at 1-888-BIGSNYC or go to [www.bigsnyc.org/volunteer](http://www.bigsnyc.org/volunteer). BBBS also invites you to come to a "Latino Bigs" Meeting. For more information, email Michael Coughlin at [mcoughlin@bigsnyc.org](mailto:mcoughlin@bigsnyc.org).

## Books of Interest

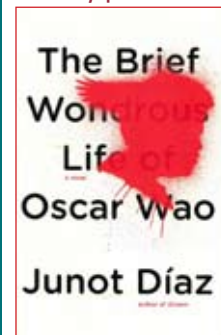
Latino/a Rights and Justice in the United States, Perspectives and Approaches, Second Edition, by Jose Luis Morin, forthcoming Spring 2008. "A much-needed and thought-provoking examination of a significant and growing population within the United States... explores the inequalities and injustices that Latino/a communities confront in the United States. Author José Luis Morín provides a deeper understanding of the historical and contemporary Latino/a experience... Offering ideas on how to reduce bias and other inequities within the justice system and the greater society, Morín calls for alternative approaches..."



Go to <http://www.cap-press.com/books/1777> for more info and complete book description.



New York Trial Notebook, by Edward L. Birnbaum, Carl T. Grasso, and Justice Ariel E. Belen. This is a valuable book for the trial lawyer, full of practical information and caselaw. It is well-organized, making information and pertinent cases easy to find. Comes with a searchable CD containing the entire book, forms, etc. For more info on the book go to <http://www.jamespublishing.com/books/nytp.htm>



Book of the Year. Junot Díaz's The Brief Wondrous Life Of Oscar Wao.

## How Can the PRBA Help You?



## PRBA

PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

A New York based association of attorneys, judges, professors, law students & qualified paralegals.

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