



LATINA/O BAR ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON / ASOCIACIÓN DE ABOGADOS LATINOS DE WASHINGTON

P.O. BOX 21134 • SEATTLE, WA • 98111-3134 • www.lbaw.org

*"Representing the Concerns and Goals of Latino Attorneys and the Latino Community"*

---

## NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\*UPDATE\* - January 9, 2009

### LBAW MEMBERS ELECT NEW DIRECTORS AND APPOINT PRESIDENT-ELECT

**\*UPDATE\* SEATTLE, WA, JANUARY 9, 2009.** On November 8, 2008 the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington's (LBAW) Board of Directors welcomed four newly elected directors: Pedro Bernal, Daniel Ford, Victoria Roa, and Martha Sandoval. The current Board of Directors has also chosen Patricia Lally as its new President-Elect; her presidency begins January 2010.

*"Our LBAW membership voted its approval by electing new board members Pedro Bernal, Daniel Ford, Victoria Roa and Martha Sandoval,"* says Nicole McGrath, President-Elect of LBAW, *"and I am excited at the variety of personal and professional experiences each new board member brings to the table for our agenda in 2009."*

In addition to electing new Directors, the current Board of Directors appointed Patricia Lally as its newest President-Elect. *"As President Elect, I look forward to working with the board and our members to promote and achieve LBAW's 2009 goals and aspirations,"* says Patricia Lally. *"In addition to better serving our members, I am particularly excited to renew our outreach efforts to support and inspire Latina/o students along their educational path, from grade school to law school. Together, we can serve those that need our support, and together, we will celebrate their success."*

Stepping down from the LBAW Board will be President Ciarelle Jiménez Valdez and Vice Presidents Omar Riojas, Stephanie Thorpe, and Jesse Valdez. *"Based on the exceptional contributions of Omar, Stephanie, and Jesse, LBAW has bolstered its public role in the community, and ensured ongoing projects were undergone in a professional, effective manner. We will especially miss the leadership of our current president C.J. Valdez whose vision for fostering meaningful relationships with LBAW's public and private supporters took LBAW to the next level of effectively working with its partners in the community,"* stated Nicole McGrath, President-Elect of LBAW. *"The impact of that work will be positively felt for years to come."*

**Patricia (Carrasco) Lally** is an Assistant United States Attorney in Seattle, Washington, where she prosecutes federal crimes. Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Patty was an associate with the law firm of Perkins Coie, where she participated in a number of complex civil litigation cases. Ms. Lally received her BS from California State University, Long Beach, and for over ten years practiced as a Certified Public Accountant in California and Washington. In 1995, she entered the University of Washington School of Law, and earned her law degree in 1998. Patty was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, and is the fourth child of Mexican-American parents who themselves never had the advantage of higher education. She has two grown children, two grandchildren and is the happy step-parent of two young boys. Ms. Lally is active in the University of Washington School of Law's Mentor program and the Alumni Ambassador Club, an organization that recruits students of color for the Law School. She has served as a director of the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington since 2007. Patty is also a board member of Housing Resources Group, an organization dedicated to providing low-income and senior housing in the Seattle area. In her spare time she enjoys photography, tennis and cooking for family and friends.

**Pedro Bernal** was born in Mexico City but immigrated to the United States at a very young age. After spending most of his childhood in San Diego, California, Pedro graduated from high school in Paris, France. Pedro obtained his B.S. in Political Science from Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts. As an undergraduate, Pedro interned for a member of Congress

in California as well as a state representative from Massachusetts. From there, Pedro went on to earn his law degree from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Illinois. While in law school, Pedro served as President of the Latino Law Student Association and spent a year working alongside prosecutors in the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney. Pedro currently serves as an Assistant Attorney General in the Washington State Office of the Attorney General, representing state agencies in various courts around the state.

**Daniel Ford** is the Advocacy Coordinator for Columbia Legal Services (CLS). Dan supports CLS representation of low-income people and groups in Washington State in a wide range of civil cases, including class actions and legislative and rulemaking advocacy, from offices in Seattle, Olympia, Wenatchee, Yakima, Kennewick, and Moses Lake. Dan has worked in legal services since 1980. He has worked primarily in representation of farm workers and other immigrants in employment and civil rights issues. Dan is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School (1980) and the University of New Mexico (1976).

**Victoria Roa** was born in Colombia where she graduated from law school in 2000. In 2004 she earned a Masters in International Law from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. Victoria practices Corporate Law and, since she moved to Seattle, she has wanted to represent the less-privileged Latino community in Washington and be a voice for all those without the resources or opportunities to be heard. Since her arrival she has actively committed herself to that mission by participating in Legal Clinics, assisting immigrant survivors of domestic violence to legalize their immigration status, taking pro bono cases, and working on LBAW initiatives.

**Martha Sandoval**, an associate at Perkins Coie LLP, was admitted to practice in Washington State in 2008. Sandoval focuses her practice mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, corporate governance, and working with on limited liability companies. Sandoval serves on the firm's local diversity committee and on the UW Law professional mentor program. As a law student, Sandoval was president of the Latina/o Law Student Association (LLSA) and served as co-chair of the National LLSA conference held in Seattle in October 2006. Sandoval has an undergraduate business degree from the UW and maintains strong ties with the business school.

*The purpose of the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington is to represent the concerns and goals of Latino attorneys and Latino people of the State of Washington. For more information about the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington, visit [www.lbaw.org](http://www.lbaw.org).*

###

For more information, reporters may contact:

**Ciarelle Jiménez Valdez**

President

Latina/o Bar Association of Washington

(206) 963-9091 | [cjimenezvaldez@lbaw.org](mailto:cjimenezvaldez@lbaw.org)

**Nicole McGrath**

President-Elect

Latina/o Bar Association of Washington

(206) 624-0200 | [nmcgrath@lbaw.org](mailto:nmcgrath@lbaw.org)