



LATINA/O BAR ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON / ASOCIACIÓN DE ABOGADOS LATINOS DE WASHINGTON  
“Representing the Concerns and Goals of Latino Attorneys and the Latino Community”  
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## NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 23, 2007

**Event Information:**

**Date:** Friday, January 26, 2007

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. Reception / 6:30 p.m. Dinner

**What:** 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards & Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner

**Place:** Fairmont Olympic Hotel, 411 University Street  
Seattle, Washington 98101

**Cost:** \$75 Member / \$80 General Public

**Register:** <http://www.lbaw.org>

**CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT JUSTICE CRUZ REYNOSO (RET.) AND  
JUSTICE CHARLES Z. SMITH (RET.) TO ADDRESS LEGAL COMMUNITY AT  
15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AWARDS & FUNDRAISER DINNER**

**SEATTLE, WA, JANUARY 23, 2007.** The Latina/o Bar Association of Washington (LBAW) welcomes retired California Supreme Court **Justice Cruz Reynoso** to Seattle. LBAW invited Justice Reynoso to be their keynote speaker at their 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards & Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner set for 5:30 p.m. on Friday, January 26, 2007. Justice Reynoso will be introduced by retired Washington Supreme Court **Justice Charles Z. Smith (Ret.)**, who is a lifetime *ex officio* member of LBAW’s Board of Directors.

Justice Reynoso was the first Latino to serve on the California Supreme court. He was an associate justice from 1982 to 1987 appointed by Governor Jerry Brown. On the Court he formed part of the liberal majority, and extended additional protections for the environment, individual liberties, and civil rights. In 1991, he served as the vice-chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. And, in 2000, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States’ highest civilian honor. Justice Reynoso then joined the faculty at the UC Davis School of Law, where he holds the Boochever and Bird Chair for the Study and Teaching of Freedom and Equality.

“LBAW is honored to have one of the Nation’s most distinguished and accomplished Latinos in the Nation address our community,” said Brenda Williams, outgoing LBAW president. “He has

worked for many years to ensure that the civil rights of vulnerable people in our country remain protected,” Williams adds.

LBAW is the *avant-garde* volunteer organization of Latina/Latino lawyers, judges, professors and law students of Washington State. Founded in 1992, LBAW is celebrating its 15th year with its *El Futuro* (“The Future”) Banquet. The proceeds of the event will be used to support student scholarships, general programs, and Consejo Counseling and Referral Services’ *Villa Esperanza* project.

Consejo’s *Villa Esperanza*, is a 23 new, two- and three-bedroom apartment project in South Seattle for Latina victims of domestic abuse and their children. These transitional units will cater primarily to Spanish-speaking families who have survived domestic-violence tragedies and are the face of hope. The proceeds will allow LBAW to help furnish the apartments with necessary items needed for a seamless transition for these families.

“We are pleased that we can take the opportunity to support Villa Esperanza as it works to make the dream of hope and peace a reality for hundreds of victims of domestic violence,” says Lorena González, incoming LBAW president, “This historical project is a true example of the perseverance and strength of our community,” González adds.

Every year LBAW also seeks to honor judges, lawyers, and community members of exception professional and ethical caliber. The awards were created more than 15 years ago to recognize members of LBAW who proudly represent the concerns and goals of Latinos in the State of Washington. The award categories are *Modelo de Excelencia* (“Model of Excellence”), *Miembro Excepcional* (“Exceptional Member”), and *La Comunidad* (“The Community”).

This year LBAW is pleased to honor the following recipients of the 2007 Annual Awards:

***Modelo de Excelencia / Model of Excellence – Patricia Loera, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation***

This award recognizes an attorney or judge that has a solid reputation for professionalism among the Washington State Bar, the Latina/o Bar, and within the community. This award recognizes a judge or lawyer who demonstrates leadership and innovation in promoting the Bar and holds a reputation for fairness within the judicial community and in the public; demonstrates a commitment to teaching, mentoring or otherwise providing an outstanding example for younger lawyers; shows exceptional leadership by furthering issues that affect members of the Latino community; holds a record of professional excellence within their area of practice; and opens doors for Latinos in a variety of job settings that have been historically closed to Latinos.

***La Comunidad / The Community – Jorge Madrazo, Former Consul of Mexico***

This award recognizes a community member or a community organization that has made significant and lasting contributions to the Latino Community. This award recognizes a member of the Bar who demonstrates initiative in heightening community awareness of issues facing Latinos in the State of Washington; demonstrates a substantial and positive influence on the Latino community statewide (or nationally); utilizes innovative approaches for the improvement of the standard-of-living of the Latino community in the State of Washington; and aids in the

advancement of opportunities in employment and education or otherwise for Latinos within the State of Washington.

***Miembro Excepcional / Exceptional Member – Ciarelle Jiménez Valdez, The Zella Company***

This award recognizes a member of the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington who represents the Bar with distinguished grace and honor. This award also recognizes a member of the Bar that has gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve the members of this Bar and promote the Bar within the general community; exhibits outstanding leadership qualities resulting in the enhanced quality of the Bar; has extensive and active service on Bar committees; holds a record of exemplary professional behavior during her or his tenure as a representative of the Bar; takes significant action to establish or expand a Bar program; and has enthusiastically promoted and supported the Bar in the community.

Over the last year, LBAW's calendar has been accented with milestones and participation in endeavors such as the *5 de Mayo* at the Bank of America Tower Celebration; a Legal Clinic at Hispanic Seafair; the first-ever Eastern Washington Hispanic Community Law Forum; the Minority Bar Associations of Washington's Statewide Diversity Conference; Judicial Candidate evaluations; and the co-hosting of the Hispanic National Bar Association's Mid-Year Conference and Moot Court Competition in Seattle – to name a few. With approximately 400 guests registered, this event will be another successful event for LBAW.

*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).*

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