10TH ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIP GALA DINNER
CELEBRANDO NUESTRO PASADO, PRESENTE, Y FUTURO

Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club
Tampa, Florida

Thursday, November 3, 2016
5:30pm
Welcome Remarks & Greetings
Vivian Cortes Hodz, President
Tampa Hispanic Bar Association

Invocation by Patricia Gomez

The Honorable Bob Buckhorn
Mayor of Tampa

William “Bill” Schifino, Jr.
Florida Bar President

Pedro J. Torres-Diaz
President of Hispanic National Bar Association

Recognition of Scholarship Recipients
Lourdes Bernal-Dixon and Victoria Cruz-Garcia
USF-THBA Latino Scholarships
Cruz-Garcia Law Student Scholarships

Recognition of THBA Past Presidents and Founders
Judge Elizabeth Rice and Vivian Cortes Hodz

Dinner and Music
Orquesta Sol Caribe

Sponsor Recognition
Bart Valdes

Presentation of the Luis “Tony” Cabassa Award
Introduction by THBA Vice President Andres Oliveros
Presented to Attorney Luis Viera

Keynote Address
Governor Robert “Bob” Martinez

Closing Remarks
Recognition of 2016 Officers and Board
Vivian Cortes Hodz and Jenay Iurato
Emilio Sánchez, Untitled, Bronx Storefront, "La Rumba Supermarket," late 1980s, watercolor on paper, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of the Emilio Sánchez Foundation. © Emilio Sánchez Foundation
WHEREAS, Hispanic men and women have played a significant role in the development and progress of the United States since October 12, 1492, when Christopher Columbus discovered America, and they have contributed substantially to the nation through culture, industry, the arts, and philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, established in 2006, the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association (THBA) was established to bring together by association, communication and organization, the Hispanic members of Tampa, Florida’s legal community and those who support its mission and values, and membership is open to attorneys, affiliates and students; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association promotes the exchange of information and ideas related to the practice of law in order to enhance its members’ knowledge and skills, and the organization provides resources and educational opportunities for future attorneys of Hispanic origin; and

WHEREAS, the THBA membership strives to improve the administration of justice, increase the quantity and quality of legal services rendered to members of the Hispanic community, and through their efforts, improve Florida’s legal system; and

WHEREAS, for a decade, the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association has ethically represented the growing Hispanic population in our community with dedication, enhanced the practice of law for its membership, and assisted future legal leaders with educational scholarships; and

WHEREAS, celebrating its 10th Anniversary, the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association is hosting its 10th Annual Scholarship Gala Dinner on Thursday, November 3, 2016 at the Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club, and it features keynote speaker Governor Robert “Bob” Martinez, Florida’s first governor of Hispanic descent and former Mayor of Tampa, the Luis “Tony” Cabassa Award presentation to Attorney Luis Viera, and the awarding of the THBA Cruz-Garcia Law Student Scholarships to deserving Hispanic law students from the Tampa Bay area.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 3, 2016 as "TAMPA HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in congratulating the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association in its 10th Anniversary, wishing them continued success, and thanking the members for their efforts that benefit the legal profession and Tampa’s citizens.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 3rd day of November, 2016.
I am honored and privileged to celebrate the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association’s Past, Present, and Future with all of you at tonight’s 10th Anniversary Scholarship Gala Dinner. We will recognize and acknowledge our founders and past presidents with a special commemorative pin. The pin will be a symbol to mark this special occasion and to demonstrate to all that see it the strong and continuing influence of our past leaders. We will remember our past events and highlight our accomplishments as we watch photos of those wonderful moments scroll across the screen in our slideshow. We will celebrate our present by enjoying an evening of laughter, music, and dancing with all of the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association’s members and friends gathered here tonight for this special celebration. We will enhance the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association’s future by awarding scholarships to deserving students and by hopefully inspiring all of those present here to become more involved with the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association to assist us in continuing our mission in the years to come.

In the past ten years, the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association has made a significant impact on our members and in the community. We have assisted pro se litigants in family law cases through our award-winning Family Law Forms Clinic En Español. We have received grant funds to establish and coordinate programs, like our Court Interpreter Project, and the upcoming Voluntary Bar Leaders’ Summit where we will convene with the leadership of our fellow local voluntary bar associations to collaborate on joint initiatives and address issues common to all of our associations. We have awarded numerous students with scholarship funds and intend to expand our scholarship programs. This year we raised more sponsorship dollars and have received the support of more sponsors than ever before. This support allows us to do even more in the future than has been done in the past. We regularly provide our members networking opportunities at social events throughout the year, as well as with educational opportunities at our monthly CLE lunches. We continue to build strong relationships with local leaders and other voluntary bar associations in order to benefit and enrich our members and the greater community. Most recently, the organization was recognized on a statewide level by Florida Bar President William J. Schifino, Jr., through the creation of an appointment for me to serve in a non-voting seat on the Florida Bar Board of Governors as a liaison for the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association.
The Tampa Hispanic Bar Association has grown in strength, in numbers, in leadership, and in recognition over the past ten years. We have so much to celebrate. I am so proud of all that the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association represents. We are rich in our Hispanic culture and are fortunate to have so much diversity among our membership and supporters. We are an organization that feels like a family and I am so lucky to be part of it. On a personal and professional note, I have been blessed with amazing opportunities as a direct result of my service to the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association. I am thankful for those opportunities and for the friendships and support of the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association’s members, officers, board of directors, and advisory board. My life has been enhanced and enriched in ways I never could have imagined as a result of this organization, its people, and the leadership roles I have had the opportunity to hold over the years. I remain forever grateful for the opportunity to serve as your 2016 President, and look forward to all the good that lies ahead.

All my best,

Vivian Cortes Hodz, President
TAMPA HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION

The Tampa Hispanic Bar Association (THBA) was formed to bring together by association, communication, and organization, lawyers, judges, and other members of the Tampa Bay legal community of Hispanic origin or descent and all others who support the mission of the THBA. THBA seeks to promote the exchange of information and ideas related to the practice of law in order to enhance its members’ knowledge and skills. THBA also strives to provide resources and enhanced opportunities for the education of future attorneys of Hispanic origin or descent while promoting the improvement of Florida’s legal system. These efforts ultimately promote the organization’s important goals of improving the administration of justice and increasing the quantity and quality of the legal services rendered to members of the Hispanic community.
Bob Buckhorn was sworn in as the 58th mayor of the City of Tampa, the nation’s 53rd largest city, on April 1, 2011.

In the past three years, Mayor Buckhorn focused on the city and region’s economic leadership, stability, and most importantly, business opportunity. Today, local government is smarter, urban development is centered on the riverfront, and Tampa is recognized as the competitive city it is. Our continued success in those efforts will set the stage for how and why we build in tomorrow’s Tampa.

In one of his first actions as mayor, Buckhorn created a diverse panel of local business people and community activists to help reshape how City Hall does business. The results are tangible: a one-stop shop permitting process, better online accessibility to city services, and increased efficiencies, resulting in saved taxpayer dollars.

Under Buckhorn, the city is smarter about how it does business. Despite facing continued economic challenges, rising health care, personnel, and fuel costs, he has balanced the budget year after year while making strategic investments and without raising property taxes.

In efforts to re-center our city around the Hillsborough River, he has heavily invested in augmenting our pattern of urban, riverfront parks. From securing a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant to complete the Tampa Riverwalk to striking a partnership with Bright House Networks to provide free WiFi along the riverfront, Buckhorn sees the waterfront areas as setting Tampa apart from other cities, and continues to look for ways residents and visitors can enjoy an active, vibrant riverfront.

Mayor Buckhorn is reshaping the places we live in today, but his work does not begin or end with the physical. A safe city thrives, and Buckhorn has continued to support both Tampa Police and Tampa Fire Rescue, opening three new fire houses and working with our first responders to keep crime falling. In 2012, Tampa became the largest city locally in Central Florida to establish a Domestic Partnership Registry, setting the tone regionally for equality. From embracing new ideas like Food Trucks to strengthening our neighborhoods through programs like Neighborhood University, he has set the stage to make Tampa into a more competitive city.
As mayor, Buckhorn serves on several boards and governing authorities including the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority, the Tampa Port Authority and the Florida League of Cities Inc. From 2011-2012, he was also a fellow for the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Daniel Rose Center for Public Leadership in Land Use.

Previously, Buckhorn served as the Special Assistant to former Tampa Mayor Sandra Freedman, and in 1995, he was elected Tampa City Council. In 2003, Buckhorn joined the Dewey Square Group, a nationally known public affairs company, until he opened Buckhorn Partners, a public affairs firm based in Tampa, in 2007.

Buckhorn, 58, graduated from Penn State University in 1980. He is married to Dr. Catherine Lynch Buckhorn, and they have two daughters, Grace and Colleen.

WILLIAM J. SCHIFINO, JR.

William J. Schifino Jr., is Managing Partner of Burr & Forman’s Tampa office and a board-certified specialist in the area of business litigation. His practice focuses on a variety of litigation and trial practice, including securities litigation and arbitration, professional malpractice litigation, employment litigation, and intellectual property litigation.

In 2015, Bill was elected President-Elect of the Florida Bar and currently serves as President of the Bar starting in 2016. He is also on Burr & Forman’s Executive Committee and Board of Trustees for the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

Bill recently completed an eight year term as a member of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission, serving as its Chairman, and having been appointed by both Governors Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist. In addition, Bill was involved in a special task force to study enhancement of diversity in the Judiciary and on the State’s Judicial Nominating Commission.

Bill is a frequent speaker and lecturer on a number of litigation and trial topics, including deposition strategies and techniques, expert witness procedures and discovery, and trial issues in Florida.

After law school, Bill worked for the firm Taub & Williams, P.A., subsequently establishing Williams, Schifino, Mangione & Steady, P.A. in 1991, where he was a founding Shareholder, President, and then Managing Director before the firm combined with Burr & Forman in 2012.
Pedro Jaime Torres-Díaz is a Principal in the Miami and San Juan offices of Jackson Lewis P.C. In addition, he currently serves as the National President of the Hispanic National Bar Association.

Mr. Torres-Díaz’s practice concentrates in Employment Discrimination and Wage & Hour Law Counseling and Litigation exclusively on behalf of employers, both in Florida and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Torres-Díaz has extensive trial experience before both federal and local courts and administrative forums in Puerto Rico and Florida. His published decisions include Rivera-Velazquez v. Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection & Ins. Co., 750 F.3d 1 (1st Cir. 2014) (affirming dismissal of age discrimination, breach of contract and Fair Credit Reporting claims); Bettis v. Toys R Us, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 123664, December 30, 2009 (S.D. Fla.) (summary judgment in favor of employer in pregnancy discrimination claim); OneSource Facility Servs. v. Mosbach, 508 F. Supp. 2d 1115 (M.D. Fla. 2007) (restrictive covenant matter); Soler v. Tyco Electronics, 268 F.Supp. 2d 97 (D.P.R. 2003) (age discrimination claim); and Ramon Jimenez et al. v. General Instruments / NextLevel, 170 D.P.R. 14 (2007). In addition, Mr. Torres-Díaz has first- or second chaired several trial matters for diverse clients in Puerto Rico and Florida, including Cruz et al. v. Ethicon (Court of First Instance – Puerto Rico; donning-and-doffing wage claim by 11 plaintiffs); Martínez v. Ethicon (Court of First Instance – Puerto Rico; disability discrimination claim); García v. Clorox Commercial Company of Puerto Rico (U.S. District Court – Puerto Rico; national origin discrimination claim); OneSource Facility Servs. v. Mosbach (U.S. District Court – Middle District of Florida; restrictive covenant matter); and Stewart v. DaimlerChrysler Financial Services (U.S. District Court – Southern District of Florida; race discrimination claim dismissed). He has also successfully defended employers in all types of administrative hearings before local and federal agencies.

Before joining Jackson Lewis, Mr. Torres-Díaz was a Partner in the Labor and Employment Law Department of a leading law firm in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where he resided and practiced law for eight years.

Throughout his practice in Puerto Rico, Mr. Torres-Díaz was a frequent and featured speaker on many subjects in the Labor and Employment Law field, in seminars for clients and for organizations such as the Society for Human Resources Management and the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce. Since arriving in Miami, Mr. Torres-Díaz has continued to participate as speaker on
many topics related to workplace law, both for clients and other organizations in Florida and elsewhere. Mr. Torres-Díaz has also written articles on legal developments in Puerto Rico, one of which was published in the American Bar Association’s The International Employment Lawyer.

He has been admitted to practice in all courts of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the State of Florida; the U.S. District Courts for the District of Puerto Rico, and the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida; and the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the First and Eleventh Circuits.

Mr. Torres-Díaz is a member of the Puerto Rico Bar Association; the Florida Bar; the Hispanic National Bar Association (where he served as General Counsel between 2011 and 2013, and currently serves as National President); the American Bar Association, Employment Law, Litigation, and International Law section; and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. He is fluent in Spanish and English, and conversant in French.

Mr. Torres-Díaz graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in 1991 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, and minors in French and Economics. During his undergraduate studies, he completed an Internship in European Business in the École Européenne des Affaires in Paris, France. After completion of his undergraduate studies, Mr. Torres-Díaz worked as a fiscal analyst in the corporate headquarters of McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1996, he obtained a Juris Doctor (magna cum laude) from the University of Puerto Rico School of Law. After his graduation from law school, he clerked for Hon. Aida M. Delgado-Colón, United States Magistrate-Judge (now Chief United States District Judge), at the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.
BOB MARTINEZ
Tampa native and former Florida Governor Bob Martinez is a Senior Policy Advisor at Holland and Knight, LLP and serves on nine boards of directors. He began his career as a Hillsborough County classroom teacher in 1957, and later became the executive director of the Hillsborough Classroom Teachers Association. In 1975, he became owner operator of the Café Sevilla Spanish Restaurant and was appointed to the Southwest Water Management District board by Florida Governor Ruben Askew.

Bob Martinez was elected Mayor of Tampa in 1979. As Mayor, he revitalized Tampa’s downtown district, promoted economic development initiatives.

LUIS VIERA

2016 Luis “Tony” Cabassa Award Winner

Luis Viera a lifelong resident of the Tampa area and is a partner at the law firm of Ogden Sullivan. Luis graduated from University of South Florida in 2000 and secured his Juris Doctor from Stetson College of Law in 2003. Luis has also been a member of the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association since its founding and a Board member for five years.

Luis is a proud son of Cuban exiles. His late Father and Mother came to the United States in 1960. His Mother’s family was from Hershey, Cuba and his Father’s family was from Havana, Cuba.

Luis has always been very involved in our community. In addition to serving as Incoming President of the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association, Luis is a founder and President of the Lawyers Autism Awareness Foundation (LAAF), which has raised $45,000.00 for children with Autism and special needs. LAAF also puts on the annual Sensory Friendly Santa event, which the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association has always assisted with and last year benefited over 200 children with Autism and other special needs.

Luis was also appointed by Tampa City Council to the City of Tampa Civil Service Board in 2011 and in 2016 was appointed as the Board Chairman. Luis is a former Chair of the Hillsborough County Bar Association Diversity Committee. He is also a former Board member for Hillsborough County Best Buddies and a former frequent guest columnist in the Tampa Tribune.
and annexed the University of South Florida and thousands of acres north of the university. Major capital projects included the Performing Arts Center, Convention Center, Tampa’s Lowry Park Zoo, restoration of the historic City Hall building, funding the restoration of the University of Tampa’s H. B. Plant building’s minarets and cupolas and the McKay Bay refuse to energy solid waste plant. He proposed and led the initiative to have a countywide library system and supported the countywide funding of the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority. He was a member of the Tampa Aviation and Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authorities.

Mayor Martinez was elected Governor of Florida in 1986. While Governor, he was recognized for his Preservation 2000 land acquisition program. Preservation 2000 became the largest government conservation land acquisition program in the nation. He supported new initiatives for surface water management improvement, Everglades restoration, Kissimmee River restoration, manatee and dolphin protection and growth management. He promoted the passage of new laws on storm water, solid waste management and beach erosion mitigation. During his tenure, he supported the start of the pre-paid tuition program, home schooling, the tenth state university in Southwest Florida, transportation funding reform and expanded criminal justice programs. He established Florida Space Port, Ounce of Prevention Fund, One Church One Child, Project Independence job training program and implemented the Florida Lottery.

In 1991, President George H. W. Bush appointed Governor Martinez to the cabinet rank position of Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. As Drug Czar, he annually developed the drug policy and budget for drug education, treatment, enforcement and interdiction. The drug policy and budget was presented to the President and later to Congress for enactment. As Drug Czar, he implemented the President’s drug initiatives with state and local governments as well as heads of states in North America, South America and Europe.

Currently, Governor Martinez is on the board of the University of Tampa, Hillsborough Education Foundation, Tampa’s Lowry Park Zoo, Tampa-Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation, Florida TaxWatch, National Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, University Club of Tampa, Harmony Institute, and honorary director of the Florida Council on Economic Education.

Governor Martinez received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Tampa and a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Illinois and has received seven Honorary Doctoral Degrees from Universities and Colleges.

Governor Martinez met his wife, Mary Jane Marino, at Tampa’s Thomas Jefferson High School. They got married in 1954 and are parents to Sharon Marie and Robert Alan and grandparents to twins Emily Ida Keen and Lydia Marie Harrell, Robert Alejandro Martinez, Christine Ysabel Martinez and Frank Serafin Martinez.
USF LATINO SCHOLARSHIP

Continuing its tradition since 2008, the THBA again recognizes the recipients of the University of South Florida Latino Scholarship. The funds raised by ticket purchases and sponsorships for our annual gala help support these bright students through two scholarships, one of which is named “The Honorable E.J. Salcines Scholarship” in recognition of the countless students Judge Salcines has mentored throughout his career.

MANUELA FLOREZ

Manuela Florez is a junior majoring in Biomedical Sciences. She will be serving as President of MEDLIFE during the 2016-17 academic year, which is an organization that partners with low-income communities in Latin America to improve their access to medicine, education, and community development initiatives. She currently works at Moffitt Cancer Center where she assists in a research study focused on tobacco cessation intervention programs for the Hispanic community. She plans to be a doctor.

DEBORAH MARTIN

Deborah Martin is a freshman. She graduated in the top 10% of her class with a 3.5 GPA from Braulio Alonso High School. She is the first one in her family to go to college. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club, Spanish Honor Society and was the Chief Designer for her school yearbook. With both Italian and Cuban roots, she learned to speak both Spanish and Italian. She would like to work with the Latino community to get them more involved in politics. Deborah will major in political science and aspires to work at the White House or as a foreign diplomat.
CRUZ-GARCIA SCHOLARSHIP

For a third year, the THBA awards two scholarships in honor of Past President Victoria Cruz-Garcia. The Cruz-Garcia Law Student Scholarship was born of the steady leadership and tireless work of Ms. Cruz-Garcia, a woman exceedingly worthy of the many accolades she has already received. The THBA Board of Directors awards these scholarships annually to two students currently enrolled in a Florida law school who, like Ms. Cruz-Garcia, have demonstrated excellence in academics; have shown a strong record of service and engagement in their community; and have expressed a desire to remain in or return to the Tampa Bay area following the completion of their legal studies.

PAMELA CORDOVA

Pamela Cordova is in her final year at Stetson University College of Law. In addition to being a member of the law school’s Hispanic Bar Association, she is also the President of the Phi Delta Phi International Legal Honor Society. Born in Ecuador and raised in West Tampa, she credits an inspiring teacher at Tampa Bay Elementary for starting her on a path of academic success. Pamela was the Valedictorian of her graduating class at A.P. Leto High School and completed her undergraduate studies in Spanish Literature at the University of Notre Dame. Upon returning to Tampa following college graduation, she began working with the law firm of Joyce & Reyes where she continues to support and serve the local Hispanic community.

BARBARA PEREZ

Barbara Perez is in her second year at Florida A&M University College of Law where she serves as the President of Christian Legal Society and is ranked in the top 25% of her class. Prior to pursuing her legal studies, she spent several years teaching at a small school that served children from migrant families in one the most disadvantaged counties in Florida. Through her church she had the opportunity to help the parents of these children, many illegal immigrants, with translation of documents and English language education. In addition to working her way through college as a legal assistant, she has also worked in Mexico and the Dominican Republic with low income families, orphans, and abused children. Barbara plans to continue her service to the Hispanic community upon graduation and ensure that she is a voice for those that do not have a voice.
PAST PRESIDENTS’ RECOGNITION AND REFLECTIONS

Luis “Tony” Cabassa
Founder and President 2006 - 2008

The organization was born out of a meeting in Orlando with then incoming Florida Bar President Francisco Angones and former Florida Supreme Court Justice Raul Cantero and other Hispanic bar leaders from around Florida where we were discussing forming a statewide Hispanic bar association. I introduced myself and told those in attendance that I was from Tampa. The attendees were shocked that Tampa with a large Hispanic population did not have a local Hispanic bar association so I jokingly said I would start it. With the help of many people including prominent local Hispanic lawyers such as the honorable federal Judge Virginia Covington and the honorable Judge EJ Salcines I was able to get the organization off the ground. Over the last 10 years, the organization has continued to grow and thrive. I am very proud of the organization and its members who have admirably served and assisted members of the local Hispanic community.

Joanna Garcia Parkin
President 2009 – 2010

I was so honored when Tony Cabassa asked me over lunch whether I would consider succeeding him as President of the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association. I was also very nervous and worried because Tony’s were very large shoes to fill. In the end, leading the THBA for two years was one of the most challenging yet privileged and rewarding experiences of my career. I am very proud of what the organization has accomplished over the years -- starting with Tony’s leadership and continued guidance, as well with the unwavering encouragement of our legal community’s Hispanic icons like Judge E.J. Salcines and Judge Virginia Covington, as well as the incredible support the organization has received from so many other members of our judiciary, lawyers, local businesses, and friends. Congratulations on 10 awesome years, THBA!
CLARA RODRIGUEZ ROKUSEK
PRESIDENT 2011 - 2012

I had the opportunity to be President of the Tampa Hispanic Bar from 2011 to 2012 and I have to admit that, even though sometimes it was overwhelming, it also was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Being president of THBA allowed me to be involved with our Hispanic community. One of the most significant projects to me was the free legal clinics for Spanish speakers. I believe that with this little act of kindness we helped so many families and we learned that giving our knowledge and experience to the ones that cannot afford a lawyer makes us better persons. Thank you THBA for this opportunity.

VICTORIA CRUZ-GARCIA
PRESIDENT 2013 - 2014

My service to the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had in my career. As a proud Hispanic and passionate litigator, the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association certainly provided me with an outstanding opportunity to serve both our legal and Hispanic community. I believe that during my two-year term we successfully carried forward the legacy that was entrusted to us by the prior leadership. Additionally, together we were able to build on our mission and certainly expand our impact in the Tampa Bay Area. I am truly humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve and thank everyone at the THBA for their selfless contributions! Adelante mi gente!!!

MIRIAM VELEZ VALKENBURG
PRESIDENT 2015

It was an honor to serve as President of the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association (2015) and on the Board of Directors from 2010-2014. A heartfelt thank you to the THBA members and board of directors for its unwavering support of its membership and dedication to the Latino community.

I congratulate all the past presidents for their vision, bar service and dedication. Your service paved the path for our success and created an organization that is truly invested in the betterment of the community and the legal profession. I look forward to being a part of this organization’s continued success.

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.” - Henry Ford
2016 TAMPA HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

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SPECIAL THANKS TO THE 2016 GALA COMMITTEE

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