



# INFORME•CHLSA

## Chicano / Hispanic Law Students' Association

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*Dear CHLSA Alumni,*

*This is the first installment of this year's email communication stream, part of our Alumni Relations Program. At this point, we are testing different formats, trying to get the information to you in an "easy-on-the-eyes," or a "get to it and through it" manner because we realize your time is valuable. This first installment is primarily an introduction, but there is some exciting news about our mentor program.*

*We invite any constructive criticisms and/or advice you may have – this is, after all, designed for you, the reader.*

*Arturo Villarreal, Jr.*

*Director of Alumni Relations - 2007-2008*

### **Big News: Our Mentorship Program**

The 2007-2008 Attorney-Mentorship Program is off to an impressive start. This year's program is more robust than previous years' programs in that CHLSA is shouldering the responsibility of managing a pool of mentor-volunteers, paring up students with those mentor-volunteers, and conducting ongoing follow-through with mentees and mentors to make sure every mentee is benefiting from the program.

If you can remember your years in law school, you will know exactly how much a mentor can mean to a law student.

CHLSA has been fortunate to have already received a number of Mentor Volunteer Forms from alumni across Texas and beyond. As we get mentor requests from our student members, we will work to match those students with mentors that share some of the commonalities that we believe will foster meaningful long-lasting relationships.

If you are interested in becoming part of our Attorney-Mentor pool, please email Art Villarreal at [chlsa.liaison@gmail.com](mailto:chlsa.liaison@gmail.com)

### *Introducing the 2007-2008 Officers:*

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Veronica Leal

Internal Vice President:

Yuridia Caire

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External Vice President:

Ole Garcia

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Arturo Villarreal, Jr.

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Monica Aleman

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Latina Law Caucus Chair:

Veronica Reyes

Fajita Fiesta Chair:

Edward A. Sandoval

*From the Office of the President*

My name is Veronica Leal and I am the President of CHLSA for 2007-2008. I am a native Houstonian. I attended the University of Texas at Austin and majored in Corporate Communications with a concentration in Mexican American Studies. After graduation, I worked for a few years in politics. It was not politics that sparked my interest in the law, however, although it helped.

I became interested in the law after interning at the Texas Civil Rights Project. I saw how the law could help so many of those who have become disenfranchised, especially Hispanics. I decided then that I wanted to practice law to help my community. I am honored to have the opportunity to achieve that goal at one of the best law schools in the country.

It is my hope that as the President of CHLSA, we can work with the administration to increase the number of admitted Hispanic students. I would also like to raise as much scholarship funds as possible for book scholarships, summer school scholarships, and bar scholarships. Finally, I would like to increase the involvement of our organization with the surrounding Hispanic community.

I look forward to achieving these goals by working closely with the Alumni. You can reach me via email at [chlsa.president@gmail.com](mailto:chlsa.president@gmail.com)

*From Our Internal Vice-President, Yuridia Caire*

I was born and raised in El Paso, TX. I graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with Departmental Honors in Chemistry. I then graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Master of Science in Chemistry. I have research experience in food science, biochemistry, computational and organic chemistry.

I am currently a 2L, a representative for the US-Mexico Bar Association and on the IP Journal. In my capacity as Internal VP of CHLSA I look forward to planning many events to bring the CHLSA organization together and increase member participation.

Additionally, I am working on developing programs to enhance the skills and knowledge of the membership. I hope that this year will allow CHLSA to have a positive impact at the law school and in the community.

*Yuridia can be reached by email at [ycaire@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:ycaire@mail.utexas.edu)*

*External Vice President, Ole Garcia*

The duties of the External Vice President include recruitment of Hispanic law students and development of projects to serve the Hispanic community. Ole serves as Executive Chair of the Community Committee and Recruiting Committee and also serves as representative to all organizations or activities that relate to the duties and goals of the office.

Ole's plans for this year include a "hands-on" project like Habitat for Humanity. He also plans to partner with local firms or bar associations to reach out to predominantly Hispanic schools and present the students with an opportunity to see first-hand that their futures are not limited, and that positive Hispanic role-models do exist.

If you have a burden for this kind of work, or if you have existing programs you fees CHLSA should be aware of, please do not hesitate to contact Ole.

He can be reached at [ole@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:ole@mail.utexas.edu)

*Director of Alumni Relations, Arturo Villarreal, Jr.*

*As if being at UT Law wasn't enough, I am blessed to be selected as this year's Director of Alumni Relations.*

*I grew up in the Rio Grande Valley, graduating from La Feria High School in 1985. (Yes, 1985) After years of working harder, I decided to work smarter and returned to the Valley to attend the University of Texas-Pan American. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Political Science (Cum Laude) and was accepted into UT Law.*

*As Alumni Director, I am responsible for facilitating the communication stream between the organization and you, our alumni – hence this email. I am also charged with managing our mentor program which is off to an outstanding start this year. It is my hope that this year's program will be the most successful program of its kind in the nation.*

*I look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible this year. My email address is [chlsa.liason@gmail.com](mailto:chlsa.liason@gmail.com).*

**Fundraising Director, Micah Miller**

Micah Miller is from El Paso, Texas and hopes to work on international commerce issues as a practicing attorney. He is a fluent Spanish speaker with substantial experience in Latin America.

As Fundraising & Banquet Chair Micah plans to raise operating funds beyond previous levels and to ensure a fun and successful Annual Cultural Celebration through creativity, dedication and cooperation.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please email Micah at [micahdmiller@gmail.com](mailto:micahdmiller@gmail.com)

**From Selena Saucedo, Secretary:**

I grew up in Arlington, Texas before moving to Colorado Springs for college. I transferred to the University of Texas at Austin and graduated in 2005 with a B.S. in Public Relations.

I worked for a year after completing my undergrad degree at TateAustin Public Relations in Austin, Texas. I enjoy live music and outdoor activities including snowboarding and wakeboarding.

I am responsible for sending out CHLSA and lawmail e-mails to students and taking minutes at the CHLSA and officer meetings. I help design and order the CHLSA t-shirts. I handle members traveling to conferences and events to represent CHLSA.

My office goals are to get enough money from Dean Ramos to pay for the conferences that members want to attend. Get the shirts in on time for the first meeting. Get information to the the members in the most efficient way. Keep everyone informed of what is going on with CHLSA on a weekly basis through the emails.

**From Jaime Vasquez, Treasurer:**

I was raised in San Antonio, TX but lived in the Washington DC area for 10 years prior to starting law school. While the “East Coast” experience was incredible and worthwhile, I had always had a desire to move back “home” to Texas and being accepted to UT Law was the perfect opportunity to meet that desire.

During this time in the East Coast, I graduated from the University of Virginia (UVA) with a degree in Commerce concentrating in Accounting. After graduating in 2003, I worked with Ernst & Young LLP in McLean, VA as a tax consultant for two years before entering law school. During those two years I also received a Masters in Accounting specializing in Tax Consulting from the University of Virginia and a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license.

I am glad to utilize my accounting background to help CHLSA in my capacity as Treasurer. In this position, my primary task is to ensure that funds are generated and expended in a reliable and responsible manner. I am proud to say that these facets are always met.

I also organize the sporting activities for the organization such as football, basketball, and softball.

## *Education Chair, Christopher Paul Cavazos.*

I am honored to represent CHLSA as the 2007-2008 CHLSA Education Chair.

I look forward to providing CHLSA members opportunities to grow both academically and socially while at UT Law.

This year we will continue providing CHLSA members with an online outline bank so that CHLSA members will get on the competition. We will also host a Resume Workshop, in which a local attorney will come to the law school to give law students meaningful input about creating a great resume.

I look forward to being the CHLSA Education Chair and hearing any suggestion you may have that may help myself or CHLSA grow.



## **Scholarship Chair, Mónica Alemán**

I am very excited about playing a more active role in CHLSA this year. I have a lot of ideas and plan to hit the ground running.

This year we are going to be offering some new scholarships in addition to the bar scholarship. The new scholarships include a scholarship for books, a scholarship for pro bono work, and a scholarship for summer school. These new scholarships will help our members achieve their goals and development as professionals.

Prior to law school, I worked for State Representative Norma Chavez from El Paso as her Legislative Aide and Director. I also worked at the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs as a Legislative Analyst and received my Masters of Public Administration from Texas State University.

I have a strong interest in governmental relations and hope to further my career in that arena after law school.

Monica can be reached at [monicaaleman@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:monicaaleman@mail.utexas.edu)

## **Christopher Weimer, Editor, CHLSA's Newsletter**

Christopher Weimer will be in charge of editing this year's CHLSA newsletter. He is a 2L, originally from Massachusetts, who comes to Austin via Monterrey, Mexico. He looks forward to hearing from all of you so that he can include updates about past CHLSA members in this year's newsletter.

His e-mail is [cweimer@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:cweimer@mail.utexas.edu)

## **Latina Law Caucus Chair, Veronica Reyes**

I am a 2L and the Latina Law Caucus Chair for CHLSA this year. This is a relatively new position, which was initiated in order to create a strong bond among the women in this organization and to make sure we are equally represented in everything CHLSA organizes.

This year I hope to meet these goals by encouraging the women in this organization to be mentors/role-models for young girls in the community who would benefit from having relationships with strong, goal-oriented women.

Also, I plan on inviting women attorneys and alumni, who can speak about their experiences in the legal community.

If you have any input on this facet of CHLSA, or if you would like to volunteer to speak to CHLSA on the subject, please contact me at [vreyes@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:vreyes@mail.utexas.edu)

## **Fajita Fiesta Chair, Edward Adrian Sandoval**

It is my honor to serve as the CHLSA fajita fiesta chair. I hail from Lyford, Texas; a small farming community in the Rio Grande Valley.

I received my undergraduate degree in Political Science & Philosophy from the University of Texas-Pan American. I consider myself true to my South Texas roots and enjoy the outdoors.

The fajita fiesta chair is responsible for the carrying out of the semiannual fajita fiesta. (I get to BBQ on the Law School's back lawn!) The purpose of the fiesta is to raise money to help endow the Dean Aleman Endowed Scholarship in Law.

Our goals for this year include raising the necessary funds to officially endow the scholarship, and to broaden the educational aspects of the event so that the UT-Law School community can be introduced to more aspects of Hispanic culture.