

LOCKE LORD DIVERSITY AWARENESS

September 2019: **National Hispanic Heritage Month**

National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 – October 15) starting as a week in 1968 celebrates the cultures and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx Americans. The annual celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month coincides with the independence of eight Latin American countries: Belize, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua.

Latinxs have made extraordinary contributions to society, including many of our own lawyers. In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month, Locke Lord is proud to recognize a few of our accomplished Latinx colleagues:



Ernesto Rafael Palomo, a Partner in Locke Lord's Business Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice in Chicago and Co-Chair of the Firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, recently received the 2019 Latino Attorney of the Year award from the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA). Ernesto will be honored at the Annual Meeting of the HBNA on September 27, 2019. Ernesto was also recognized by *Negocios Now* in its 2019 Who's Who in Hispanic Chicago, an annual publication honoring Latino leaders in the Chicago community across a range of categories. *Negocios Now* recognized Ernesto in the law category for his devotion to pro bono work through the National Immigrant Justice Center, the Center for Disability and Elder Law and the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, as well as his role in an amicus brief submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in a suit about the legality of adding a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. Ernesto serves on the Boards of The Chicago Committee, an organization dedicated to promoting the recruitment, hiring, retention and elevation of minority lawyers in the Chicago area, and Just the Beginning – A Pipeline Organization, whose mission is to encourage underrepresented students to pursue career and leadership opportunities in the law. Ernesto was selected for the 2014 Fellows Program of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity and is an active member of the HNBA and the Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois. Prior to practicing law, Ernesto served in the U.S. Marine Corps.



Nina Huerta is Managing Partner of the Firm's Los Angeles office, where she focuses her practice on labor and employment matters. In 2017, Nina was unanimously elected President of the Mexican American Bar Foundation (MABF), an organization dedicated to providing financial assistance to men and women of Latino heritage who intend to pursue careers in the law. She continues as MABF President today.



Marc Cabrera is a Business and Financial Services Litigation Associate in our Dallas office. Marc is involved with the Dallas Hispanic Bar Association and was selected for the 2018 Fellows Program of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity.



Rufino Gaytán is a Labor and Employment Associate in our Houston office. Rufino was voted a Top Latino Lawyer by Latino Leaders Magazine in December 2018. He is also a veteran, having served in the U.S. Army Reserve's Bravo Company, 980th Engineer Combat Battalion.



Ricardo Lopez is a Labor and Employment Associate in our Los Angeles office. Recently, Ricardo served as pro bono counsel to an unaccompanied minor who, in April 2019, was granted asylum in the United States due to dangers she faced in her home country of Guatemala. Ricardo accepted the case in early 2017 with the help of Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), an organization that protects unaccompanied children who enter the U.S. immigration system alone.

The heart of Locke Lord lies within our people and the many different experiences and perspectives we share. We recognize, embrace and celebrate our differences and believe we can only provide our clients with the best possible representation if we reflect the diversity of the clients and communities we serve.



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