



MABA NEWSLETTER

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www.mabaattorneys.com



Top Row: MAGDALENA CASAS, ELIZABETH A. HERNANDEZ, DIEGO A. ARP, LORI ROMERO, EVE LOPEZ, and ERIC CANTON

Middle Row: MAYRA B. JOACHIN, ELIZABETH L. BRADLEY, MOISES VAZQUEZ, JACQUELINE DAVALOS, MARINA TORRES, and JESSE BLANCARTE

Bottom Row: BRENDA GALVAN, CHRISTIAN CONTRERAS, RONALD GOMEZ, JUAN J. REDIN, JESUS ZELADA, and ASHLEY KIM

MEXICAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

MABA is committed to the advancement of Latinos in the legal profession and the empowerment of the Latino community through service and advocacy.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Magdalena Casas
2023 MABA President

Queridos Mabistas,

It's hard to believe that we are at the midpoint of 2023. While this year is flying by, our beloved MABA family continues to support MABA's mission and assist in our organization's growth and success. It's been wonderful seeing so many of you at our events and building community. More importantly, I am repeatedly moved by the generosity and support of our Mabistas, who never cease to heed the call of making our legal community a great place to learn, grow, and develop new talent.

While we've accomplished so many great feats this year so far, our work continues. I truly value the amazing talents of our board; each member has contributed greatly to this year's early success. Every one of them has embraced their responsibilities with a passion for equity, and to make the legal field more attainable for everyone, particularly those who come from disenfranchised backgrounds.

Here's a recap of our year so far:

MABA began its year with the selection of 9 externs for its Judicial Externship and Scholarship Program. Many of these participants are first-generation college students. These law students will have the opportunity to extern in-person at the chambers of the program's participating federal judges. It is through the generous donations of MABA supporters, that this program is made possible.

In addition to holding our board retreat in January, MABA also held a Substance Abuse MCLE. I'm grateful for the hard work of our speakers, including longtime Mabistas Elsa Leyva and Richard Chacon, who delivered remarkable personal stories. In February, we recognized our student vice-chairs at our first ever Vice-Chair Appreciation Mixer at Everson Royce Bar.

On March 11, 2023, we hosted our 63rd Installation of Officers & Awards Gala where over 650 guests gathered to honor 9th Circuit Chief Judge Mary Murguía, California Supreme Court Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, and our beloved MABA Past President Alan Diamante. It was wonderful to see so many Mabistas joining in support of such outstanding leaders in our community. **Thank you.**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In April and May, MABA was thrilled to support our fellow bar organizations, particularly the Armenian Bar Association's Public Servants Dinner in New York City, where Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor was one of the special invitees. We also embarked on our annual MABA trip, reuniting with old friends and welcoming new ones, all the while creating beautiful lifelong memories.

On June 8, 2023, MABA hosted its Summer mixer at the Bonaventure Brewing Company, where 5 outstanding High School students were awarded \$3,000 each in scholarships. Some of the students recognized will be attending prestigious schools such as Stanford, Columbia, and UCLA, among others.

In addition to our events, the board has been steadfastly creating meaningful programming. We've begun developing a Judicial Pipeline Program, with the goal of making the bench more attainable for people of all backgrounds. In addition, we've begun working with other affinity bar organizations to form a Unity Bar in Los Angeles.

We have a few other activities planned for the coming months, including our Supreme Court Year in Review in July, along with free legal clinics this summer. We are also excited to announce the return of our golf tournament in September, and the first-ever collaboration of Latino/a Bar organizations in Los Angeles and Orange County, in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Lastly, I look forward to seeing all of you at our annual Judges' Night Event in October.

I hope you enjoy MABA's first newsletter of 2023, and always thank you for your steadfast support of MABA.

Juntos Podemos.

Magdalena Casas
MABA 2023 President

2023 MABA Madrinas & Padrinos

We give special thanks to our Madrinas and Padrinos. **Thank you for your support!**

Hon. Lucy Armendariz
Diego Arp
Marsha Barr-Fernandez
Elizabeth Bradley
Hon. E. Carlos Dominguez
Michael Felix
Rosa Florentino
Joel Garcia

Denisse Gastélum
Monica Guizar
Richard Gutierrez
Teresa Gutierrez
Elizabeth Hernandez
John Hernandez
Robert Jacobs

Ronald Martinetti
Judy Perez
Alma Puente
Sylvia Torres-Guillen
Moises Vazquez
Saundra Wootton





Sueño De La Familia: MABA's 63rd Annual Installation of Officers & Awards Gala

By Juan Redin, MABA Trustee

On March 11, 2023, MABA celebrated its 63rd Annual Installation of Officers and Awards Gala at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel.

"Sueño de La Familia" was the Gala's theme, paying tribute to the sacrifice of our ancestors for inspiring, supporting, and enabling all of us to dream of a better tomorrow. Indeed, it was a night of dreams, as more than 600+ attendees came together to install our 2023 Board of Trustees, celebrate our new President, Magdalena Casa, and to honor our distinguished honorees. The Installation was emceed by Cristina Perez.

In true MABA spirit, the night began with our outgoing President, Heriberto Veliz, giving his outgoing President's remarks. Heriberto's leadership shepherded tremendous growth for MABA, increasing membership numbers to an all-time-high as well as the leaving MABA more financially secure than ever. **¡Gracias, Heri!**

The Hon. Teresa Sanchez-Gordon, administered the Oath to the 2023 Board of Trustees and the Hon. Sergio C. Tapia, II, did the honors of administering the Oath to our 2023 President, Magdalena Casas. The Board, which include many new faces, and Magdalena were proudly sworn-in and ready to advance MABA's mission.





MABA's honorees of the night included:

- Los Angeles Mayor, **Karen Bass**, receiving the Edward R. Roybal Public Service Award;
- California Supreme Court Justice, **Patricia Guerrero**, receiving the Justice Cruz Reynoso community Service Award;
- U.S. Court of Appeals Chief Judge **Mary H. Murguia**, receiving the Frank E. Munoz Lifetime Achievement Award; and
- Our dear friend, 2005 MABA Past President, **Alan Diamante**, receiving the Rigoberto J. Arrechiga Spirit Award. MABA renamed its Sprit Award in Rigo's Honor.

MABA also honored its 2023 Federal Judicial Externship Program Recipients. The magical night ended with some remarks by MABA-Mexico's President, José Lucio Jimenez Ramos.

MABA thanks all attendees and Sponsors who made this night possible. ¡Gracias!





Cuba, A Trip to Remember

By Magdalena Casas and Sage Lewis

On May 24, 2023, MABA kicked off the Summer season and embarked on its annual trip. This year's destination—**Cuba!**

The trip did not disappoint. A hearty group of 35+ individuals joined MABA for what turned out to be a memorable experience. We explored the riches of Cuban architecture, music, culture, and food; and yes, there was *plenty* of food and mojitos!

We kicked off our first full day with a wonderful tour of the historic core of **Havana, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**, where one can find extraordinary Colonial architecture, both well preserved and decayed, many galleries, contemporary centers, boutique museums, and little shops. In the evening we enjoyed a show at The Tropicana, the world's most famous nightclub from 1939 to 1959. Built in the gardens of an early 20th-century residence, the club continues to operate almost exactly as it did in its heyday, and is the only one of Havana's famous clubs to survive the Revolution.





Cuba, A Trip to Remember



Best of all, the show did not disappoint! From the music, to the costumes, and skillful dances, **the show was an incredible display of artistic mastery.**

We got to know Havana through its most grand neighborhood—El Prado, one of the most exquisitely designed major avenues in all of the Americas and home to the quintessential structures that define Havana, ranging from Colonial to Baroque to Neoclassical to Art Deco.

Designed in 1772 by French landscape architect Jean-Claude Nicolas Forestier, El Prado runs for many blocks from Central Park to the iconic Malecon, marking the boundary between Habana Vieja and Centro Habana. El Paseo, a marble promenade lined with a natural canopy of trees, marble benches and bronze lions was chosen by the House of Chanel for one of the most dramatic runway shows in the history of fashion. It is home to El Capitolio (1929); El Gran Teatro de La Habana (1918), home to the National Ballet of Cuba; The Bacardi Building (1930), a testament to Art Deco and dozens of other structures immortalized in photography and film for decades. El Prado encompasses all the cultural wealth that Havana has offered from the 17th to the 20th Century.

On another occasion, we enjoyed a private tour of the Capitol. Cuba's Capital building was constructed after the forming of the Republic of Cuba. The building is now used as the seat of the Parliament under Cuba's first new president post-Castro. It is also a museum that is open for tours.





Cuba, A Trip to Remember

One afternoon, we visited the beautifully restored Basílica San Francisco de Asís to experience a private performance of the first, all-women string orchestra in Latin America. It was truly a moving performance. We also explored the hilltop house of American writer **Ernest Hemingway's** house, where he lived from 1940–1960 with his wife, Martha Gellhorn, and their children. Cuba was Hemingway's most frequented country where he wrote *The Old Man and the Sea*, *To Have and Have Not*, and *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. **Hemingway donated his Nobel Prize to the Cuban people.**

We even enjoyed a day trip to Viñales. The ride to Viñales was picturesque, featuring limestone mountains called “mogotes” that jut out of the valley floor. On our way to Viñales we stopped by a third-generation tobacco farm that grows and prepares tobacco for the Cohiba brand. The farmer showed us the process of how the world's finest tobacco is created. We learned about the tobacco cultivation and cigar rolling process. Later, some participants enjoyed horseback riding through the beautiful countryside.



One attendee commented: “Cuba trip was the hands-down, best organized and executed MABA trip I have been on. [...] From the hotel, to the food, and the quite excellent tours we did, **it was just an amazing trip. All-around excellent.**”





Cuba, A Trip to Remember

Another added, “This was a fantastic trip that allowed just enough free time and a variety of wonderful activities that kept us engaged the whole time. **We learned so much about Cuban culture and the people.** We know this won’t be the last time we visit because we felt like it was more than a trip but a true-life experience. Thank you!”

Our trip guide, Gretell, was phenomenal. One traveler commented, our “trip guide was very good, knowledgeable and [had a] high level of energy. She truly enjoyed sharing the culture of Cuba.” Another mentioned, “**I was absolutely blown away by the experience.** The guides were incredibly knowledgeable and passionate about Cuba, and they answered all of our questions honestly and thoughtfully. They also showed us the true good that encouraging tourism can do for the Cuban people.”

Mabistas are already clamoring with excitement for next year’s trip. **We hope you will join MABA next year** on another great adventure around the world.

MABA wishes to thank everyone who signed up for our annual trip. Through your continued support of MABA, we continue to build community, even in Cuba and around the world. MABA also thanks Project Por Amor, for helping curate a wonderful experience for all our guests and for its contribution to this article.





MABA to Launch Judicial Pipeline Program and Standing Committee to Encourage Members to Seek Judicial Appointments

By Elizabeth L. Bradley, MABA Trustee, and Magdalena Casas, MABA President

MABA applauds the commitment and ongoing efforts of Governor Gavin Newsom and Judicial Appointments Secretary Luis Céspedes to diversify California’s judiciary, including through the appointment of Latinos/Latinas to the bench. It is truly inspiring and gratifying to see our Latino/Latina friends and colleagues appointed to the bench in record numbers, and to see the representation of our communities on the judiciary grow, both at the State and Federal level. Despite this meaningful progress, much more work remains to be done before the judiciary will truly be reflective of California’s communities.

In late 2022, after a brief but inspiring conversation at MABA’s Judges’ Night with Judge Helen Zukin, one of the creators of the Los Angeles Superior Court’s Judicial Mentor Program, MABA Trustee Elizabeth Bradley began exploring how MABA could contribute to the ongoing efforts to increase representation of Latinos/Latinas on the Courts. With full Board support, Bradley began developing a program through which MABA could encourage and provide valuable resources to members considering careers as judicial officers, such as through education/programming, and access to resources.

Recognizing the critical role MABA can play in this process, President Magdalena Casas adopted the program as a priority of her presidency. Bradley and Casas have spearheaded the project together, meeting with Los Angeles Superior Court Assistant Presiding Judge and friend of MABA, Judge Sergio C. Tapia. By virtue of his leadership position, and his affiliation with the Latino Judicial Officers Association (LJOA), Judge Tapia shared invaluable insight into how best MABA can contribute to increasing the representation of Latinos/Latinas on the Court, while adding value to its members. The endeavor between MABA and LJOA began in 2014. As a result, many Latina and Latino candidates have been appointed to the Superior Court. Through these conversations with Judge Tapia, it became apparent that a significant challenge in the effort to diversify the judiciary continues to be a lack of Latino/Latina candidates in the pipeline. While there are numerous LJOA members who stand ready to mentor Latinos/Latinas considering a judicial career, there are simply not enough lawyers in the pipeline. Judge Tapia encouraged Bradley and Casas to continue their efforts, emphasizing the LJOA’s commitment to advancing this important cause through its mentorship opportunities. According to Judge Tapia, it is never too early to seek out a mentor. Armed with this valuable information, Bradley took to developing a program with the primary purpose of encouraging Latino/Latina lawyers to consider judicial careers.

“Many fall victim to ‘imposter syndrome,’ and doubt their own qualifications and abilities. We need to encourage lawyers and law students to seriously consider careers as judicial officers—to become part of the solution,” Bradley said.



The program also seeks to demystify the application process through education and programming, and to make sure the community is aware of the valuable resources available to us, such as LJOA mentorship opportunities.

In addition, CLJA will consider endorsement of candidates for judicial office who have a demonstrated commitment to equal justice and who have been involved in, supportive of, and responsive to the needs and concerns of the Latino community.

“MABA has valuable and longstanding relationships with LJOA and with the California Latino Judges Association. We want to do everything we can to empower our members, and we encourage our members to make the most out of these valuable resources,” says Casas.

Judge Tapia has offered his ongoing support to the effort, stating that **“MABA’s new initiative will improve and enhance this mentorship opportunity, while building a much-needed pipeline to the judiciary.”**

MABA’s new Judicial Pipeline Program will do just that. In May 2022, the Board unanimously voted in favor of the creation of the Judicial Pipeline Program as a permanent MABA program, as well as a Standing Committee to be appointed annually by the President. The program will accomplish these goals through programming with high level officials and judicial officers, community outreach, connecting interested individuals with LJOA and CLJA, and a dedicated page on MABA’s website providing easy access to a variety of resources related to the judicial application process. MABA will serve as a liaison for interested individuals who join the program, though that is not a requirement to take advantage of the opportunities and resources the program will provide.

MABA is pleased to announce that the JPP’s inaugural program, *“It’s Never Too Early (Or Too Late) To Consider A Career As A Judicial Officer”* will be held on **September 12, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.**, featuring Judicial Appointments Secretary Luis A. Céspedes, Hon. Thomas A. Delaney, Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeal, and CLJA President, Hon. Fernando Aenlle-Rocha, Judge, U.S. District Court, and other distinguished guests.

MABA extends heartfelt congratulations to:



ARACELI MARTINEZ-OLGUIN

On being sworn in as a federal district court judge at the U.S.D.C. for the Northern District of California.



GONZALO MARTINEZ

On your nomination to serve as an Associate Justice of the Second District Court of Appeal, Division Seven





MABA Congratulates ABA President-Elect, Mary L. Smith

By Diego A. Arp, MABA Vice-President

On Friday, February 10, 2023, a reception was hosted by the California Lawyers Association (CLA) for **Mary L. Smith**, the President-Elect of the American Bar Association (ABA). Notably, Smith will be the first female Native American president of the ABA and is a member of the Cherokee Nation.

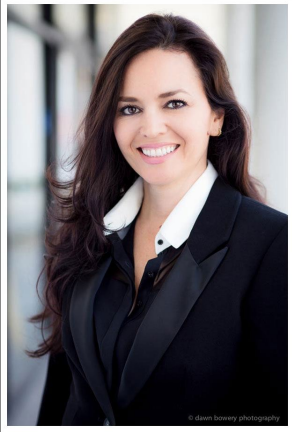
Several diverse bar associations from the Southern California area and members of their executive leadership attended, including Diego Arp, Vice-President of MABA.

At the reception, she shared her vision for the ABA, encouraged mutual cooperation between the organizations and support for further diversification of the legal profession. We encourage you to consider becoming a member of the ABA and CLA (in addition to MABA) to help foster the continued growth of our profession amongst all of our communities.



MABA Board Special Recognitions

Elizabeth Bradley & Christian Contreras



The MABA Board would like to recognize MABA Trustee, **Elizabeth L. Bradley**, for her steadfast commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

Elizabeth L. Bradley is a partner at Rosen Saba, LLP, where she has practiced for the past eleven years, prosecuting legal malpractice, legal ethics and employment discrimination and harassment matters, as well as handling the firm's appeals.

Elizabeth is a State Bar of California certified specialist in legal malpractice. She currently serves on the State Bar Committee on Professional Responsibility and Ethics, is a current and founding member of the CLA Ethics Committee, is the immediate past Chair of LACBA's Professional Responsibility and Ethics Committee, and serves on LACBA's Diversity in the Profession Section Executive Committee and the President's Advisory Committee on Women in the Profession. In April 2023, Elizabeth helped organize LACBA's Diversity & Inclusion Conference, where she moderated a panel addressing legal ethics and diversity and a second panel focusing on diversity in the judiciary. Elizabeth frequently writes and speaks on legal ethics and litigation issues, and participates in mentoring programs through various schools and organizations. MABA is honored to have Elizabeth as a Trustee and grateful for her ongoing efforts to improve diversity and inclusion in all aspects of our profession.

The MABA Board extends a note of gratitude to MABA Trustee, **Christian Contreras**, for his generosity in purchasing a table at MABA's 63rd Annual Installation & Awards Gala to help law students access free seating.



Christian Contreras is an attorney, advocate, and community leader. As an attorney, Christian is the principal of the Law Offices of Christian Contreras, PLC and partner at Guizar, Henderson & Carrasco, LLP where he practices civil rights, criminal defense, personal injury, trials, appeals, and general civil litigation. As an advocate, Christian works with various non-profit organizations in the pursuit of social equity. Christian serves as counsel to Centro CSO, the Latino Coalition of Los Angeles, and other community organizations. He also helps shape policy and has testified at the State Capitol in support of legislation. As a community leader, Christian serves on the board of directors of the East Los Angeles College and currently serves as the state-wide legal advisor to the League of Latin United American Citizens. Christian is also a co-founder of Justice X. Justice X is a coalition of Black and Brown lawyers dedicated to advancing social equity. Through Justice X, Christian is launching an education initiative where the program focuses on teaching young adults from lower socio-economic neighborhoods about their rights in an effort to empower them and foster hope.

Christian: MABA thanks you for your relentless civil rights advocacy and your kindness towards MABA's law student members. We are lucky to have you.





Navigating Alcoholism in the Legal Profession: Recognizing the Challenges and Seeking Support

By Jacqueline A. Davalos, MABA Trustee

Lawyers often face intense pressure to meet deadlines, handle complex cases, and juggle multiple responsibilities. The demanding nature of the profession can lead to stress, anxiety, and a constant need to perform at a high level. These factors, combined with long working hours and the weight of client expectations, can create an environment conducive to alcohol abuse as a coping mechanism.

Alcoholism in lawyers seems to be more common than in the general population, with around one-fifth of lawyers demonstrating hazardous levels of drinking.

One in three practicing lawyers are problem drinkers, based on the volume and frequency of alcohol consumed, 28 percent suffer from depression, and 19 percent show symptoms of anxiety, according to the study, which involved 12,825 licensed, employed lawyers in 19 states around the country.¹

On January 12, 2023, MABA hosted its first MCLE of the year on “The Impact of the Pandemic on Attorneys and Competence Issues Regarding Alcohol.”

MEXICAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
Commitment to the Empowerment of the Latin Community
SINCE 1967

MCLE

1/12/23- 6 p.m.
Via Zoom

Studies show that 21% of working lawyers are considered problem drinkers. 28% of lawyers suffer with depression and up to 70% of legal malpractice issues are associated with substance abuse. High stress jobs and the pressure to succeed are known to drive workers towards substance abuse as a short-term strategy to help them cope.

Addiction in the legal profession often begins in law school. Heavy workloads coupled with the pressure to compete causes mental health problems for some, which is often directly related to drug and alcohol abuse. According to one study, one of every five lawyers has used alcohol or some other drug to excess in their lives.

For the overwhelming majority of lawyers, alcohol abuse started after entering law school. The current pandemic has resulted in increased isolation, depression, and exacerbated other mental health challenges that contribute to alcohol and substance abuse.

Our panelists, Richard Chacon and Elsa Leyva, will share resources and tools to help attorneys.

¹Elizabeth Olson, High Rate of Problem Drinking Reported Among Lawyers, NY Times (Feb. 4, 2016), <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/05/business/dealbook/high-rate-of-problem-drinking-reported-among-lawyers.html>





Navigating Alcoholism in the Legal Profession: Recognizing the Challenges and Seeking Support

By Jacqueline A. Davalos, MABA Trustee

MABA would like to give a sincere thank you to our speakers Elsa Leyva and Richard Chacon for their time and genuine dedication to this issue.

For resources dealing with substance abuse issues, visit Lawyer Assistance Program Resources for Attorneys at <https://www.calbar.ca.gov/Attorneys/For-Attorneys/Lawyer-Assistance-Program/LAP-Support-Services-for-Attorneys/LAP-Resources-for-Attorneys> or contact 877-LAP-4HELP.

Our panelists were Elsa Leyva and Richard Chacon. Elsa Leyva was born and raised in East Los Angeles. A former Federal Public Defender and LA County Public Defender, Elsa has now joined the Independent Defender Program and works on post-conviction matters. Elsa has served on the boards of the Mexican American Bar Association, and the Latina Lawyers Bar Association. She is a Founder and First President of the Latina Lawyers Bar Association. She has also served on the board of California Common Cause, the Center for Law in the Public Interest, the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs, and the Other Bar (lawyers in recovery). Elsa has 27 years of sobriety and is active in the Other Bar recovery programs.

Richard Chacon has practiced criminal defense since 2000 handling everything from DUI to homicide. He has served on the Board of Directors for MABA for six (6) terms in the past. He quit drinking alcohol and became an active member of Alcoholics Anonymous in 2010. In addition, he has also been very active in the community. Richard has served as a Board Member on the Mexican American Bar Association for six years and acted as their Newsletter Editor and Judicial Evaluation Chairperson. Currently, he is an Advisory Board Member for Community Lawyers, Inc., a Community Advisor for the Hollenbeck Police Business Council, and he was the 2018 President for the Criminal Courts Bar Association. In 2010, the USC Latino Law Students Association honored Richard with the Inspiration Alumnus Award at the annual Judges & Lawyers Night.

In their presentation, both Elsa and Richard candidly discussed their own experiences navigating the prevalence of alcoholism in the profession. They shared resources and coping mechanisms that worked for them and offered to speak to anyone who may be going through the same challenges.





LA District Attorney’s Immigration Directives

By Mayra B. Joachin, MABA Newsletter Director



Moderator:

Elizabeth P. Uribe

Attorney at Law



SPEAKER :

Diana M. Teran

LA District Attorney’s Office



SPEAKER :

Marissa Montes

Director, Loyola Immigrant Justice Clinic



SPEAKER :

Rose Cahn

Managing Attorney at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center

On January 30, MABA hosted an MCLE focusing on the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Immigration Directives.² The directives, which were issued in December 2022, provide guidance concerning various forms of humanitarian visas, including U-Visas and T-Visas, law enforcement certification, and post-conviction relief.

MABA was fortunate to have a stellar panelist lineup. **Elizabeth P. Uribe** moderated the panel. Ms. Uribe is Attorney at Law at the Law Office of Elizabeth P. Uribe and a former MABA President. The speakers were Diana Teran, Marissa Montes, and Rose Cahn.

Diana M. Teran, Director of Prosecution Support Operations at the LA District Attorney’s Office, discussed processing timeframes for U-Visa and T-Visa applications, which crimes qualify for U-Visa certification, and the process for appeals. She also provided insight on how the office reviews these various requests.

Marissa Montes, a Professor at Loyola Law School and Director of the law school’s Immigrant Justice Clinic, addressed the various improvements to the law enforcement certification process under the new directives. She emphasized that the directives are in strict compliance with CA PC § 679.10 and that certification cannot be denied on the basis of the age of the crime or a victim’s immigration or criminal history or alleged gang membership.

Rose Cahn, then Managing Attorney at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, described the policy as a gold standard. She highlighted the directive’s explanation of diversion programs, their connection to post-conviction relief, and how the directives clarify that the goal is to make communities feel safer. Ms. Cahn underscored that “policies are only as strong as their implementation.” She reminded attendees that it is up to us to collaborate with the DA’s office to ensure the policy is upheld to its full potential.

² The immigration directives (known as Special Directive 22-07) can be accessed at <https://da.lacounty.gov/sites/default/files/policies/SD-22-07-Immigration-Policy.pdf>





Celebrating MABA's Vice-Chairs

By Diego A. Arp, MABA Vice-President

On February 18, 2023, MABA held an in-person Mixer at Everson Royce Bar in downtown Los Angeles to kick off our 2023 Vice-Chair Program.

The Vice-Chair Program is part of MABA's Mentorship Committee's efforts to increase diversity and inclusion within the profession, provide mentorship and support to current law students, and assist them in building their network of legal professionals.

The 2023 Vice-Chairs are enrolled at UCLA, USC, Southwestern, Loyola, La Verne, and Western State College of Law. They are recognized as leaders on their respective campuses.

In attendance were several current and former Vice-Chairs who enjoyed sharing their past experiences, lessons learned from participating in the program, and goals for future events for the new year. MABA Board Members were also in attendance and the event was a great success!





Welcoming New Attorneys to the Profession

By Mayra B. Joachin, MABA
Newsletter Director



On May 18, 2023, MABA, with the assistance of Judge Sergio Tapia, Judge Rita Badhan, and Judge Serena Murillo conducted a swearing-in ceremony for two new members of the California Bar: **Julieta Hernandez and Priscilla Parada.**

Julieta Hernandez is a graduate of UCLA School of Law. Priscilla Parada graduated from the University of La Verne College of Law.

The event was quite special. Judges Badhan and Tapia extended a warm welcome to our new members of the California Bar, delivered insightful remarks about the significance of having Latina/o lawyers in our profession, reflected on the challenges our members and their families face before and after joining this field, and emphasized that there is a strong supportive network ready to help our members succeed.



Judge Tapia also delivered remarks in Spanish, making the event accessible to the many Spanish-speaking family members in attendance. Tears were shed. Hearts were moved. And our new members of the Bar were lovingly celebrated.

Julieta and Priscilla: Congratulations again on passing the California Bar Exam and becoming members of our Bar! We are eager to see what you will accomplish in this profession.

MABA sends special thanks to Judges Badhan, Murillo, and Tapia for all their assistance with the swearing in ceremony. Their participation made the event one to remember.

To those taking the July Bar Exam: MABA wishes you the best of luck! We hope you will join us at our Swearing-in Ceremony in November.





MABA Entertainment Law Panel

By Ashley Kim, MABA Student Trustee

The Entertainment Law Panel, moderated by Mireya Valle and Marilyn Valdez with support by Michael Campos, featured an **inspirational panel of lawyers** who were ready to engage in important conversations.

The panelists, consisting of **Michael Casco, Jennifer Covarrubias, Miguel Guerra, and Sofia Beltran**, were transparent and open about their experience in the legal field.

While they shared their wisdom, they also shared their advice to those who want to pursue a path in Entertainment and validated those who may have experienced imposter syndrome.

In attendance were law students from across the nation and judges!

Thank you to the panelists, moderators, and the MABA team for putting this event together!

The Mexican American Bar Association
Thanks:
ENTERTAINMENT LAW PANEL

Jennifer Covarrubias

Miguel Guerra

Michael Casco

Sofia Beltran

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED AND MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE!



MABA Student Mixer

MABA thanks all students, attorneys, and judges who attended this year's Student Mixer and helped make it a tremendous success.

**Attorney Student
Judges Mixer 2023**



Stay tuned for more events!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July - December

July 18: On-Campus Interviewing Skills Panel

July 20: MABA's U.S. Supreme Court Year in Review

July 29: MABA Legal Fair

Sept. 22: MABA Golf Tournament




Sept. 23: MABA Judicial Pipeline Program Inaugural Panel

Oct. 26: Judges' Night and Awards Ceremony

Nov. 15: MABA Swearing-in Ceremony for new attorneys

Nov.: MABA Board Elections

Dec.: Holiday Mixer



The Mexican American Bar Association
Los Angeles Chapter of the American Constitution Society & the American Civil Liberties Union

INVITE YOU TO:
U.S. Supreme Court YEAR IN REVIEW: 2022 - 2023 TERM

Thursday, JULY 20, 2023
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm PDT
2 hours of MCLE credit provided

Moderator:
Moises Vazquez, Personal Injury and Worker's Compensation Attorney

Panelists:
Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean of the UC Berkeley School of Law
Carlos Holguin, General Counsel at Center for Human Rights & Constitutional Law
Rachel Moran, Distinguished Professor of Law at UCI Law



MABA LEGAL FAIR
ATTORNEY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Program Description: Legal fair on July 29, 2023, from 9 AM - 1 PM, located at 1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez, Monterey Park, CA 91754

We Need Help With:

- Providing free legal consultations to the East L.A. Community
- All specializations in law are welcomed!

REGISTER HERE:
[HTTPS://MABAATTORNEYS.COM/EVENT-5348544](https://mabaattorneys.com/event-5348544)
FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: ADMIN@MABAATTORNEYS.COM



MABA Golf Tournament
Location: Brookside Golf Course: 4133 Rosemont Ave. Pasadena CA 91103
Date: September 22nd, 2023

Regular	Early Bird
\$200 Individuals	\$175 Individual
\$800 Foursomes	\$700 Foursomes

Early bird sale ends: July 31st

Don't Miss MABA's Judges' Night and Awards Ceremony

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