



MARIO RAMOS

Member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). Mario received the Juris Doctor degree from California Western School of Law, and his LL.M. from The London School of Economics and Political Science. He received a Scholarship and Diploma from Hague Academy of International Law and earned a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Mario is former Chairman of the Nashville Bar Immigration Committee and served as past chairman of the Hispanic Achievers Program of the YMCA of Middle Tennessee. He is a member of Leadership Nashville, Class of 1995-1996. Mario is AILA Advocacy Director for the Mid-South serving on the Grass-roots Campaigns / Immigration Works Committee and on the US-Mexico Plus/Essential Workers Committee and the Hispanic Interest Committee. Mario Ramos is the recipient of the NAHCC 2008 Hispanic Entrepreneur Achievement

Award and was recognized for Immigration Advocacy in 2010 by the American Immigration Lawyers Association. He was honored at the annual convention held in Las Vegas. AILA is the nation's leading immigration lawyers association with over 11,000 members.



CAROLINA RIVAS

Carolina Rivas studied Marketing and Publishing at Universidad Francisco Gavidia in El Salvador and graduated as a Executive Bilingual Assistant from Queens' School of Business, and English (ESL) Academia Europea. Her professional training includes theology in a Baptist seminar, public relations and media. She has worked developing projects with international organizations such as the European Union and United Nations as well as local non-profits. She has worked for telecommunications and airline companies and supported and coordinated donations with networks to help the children hospital and schools in rural areas, providing medical and school supplies, toys and clothes. Rivas came to Tennessee in 2001 and began working as a volunteer in the community of Rutherford County, for domestic violence, pregnancy support, health department, sheriff department, MTMC and human services. Carolina

Rivas is co-owner of Nelson's Final Touch a construction and real estate business, and serves as Sales and Marketing Manager for Checker Cab of Nashville and Yellow Taxi plus in Murfreesboro. Carolina speaks Spanish, English and Portuguese.



LORAIN SEGOVIA-PAZ

Loraine Segovia studied towards her bachelor degree in accounting at the University of Mayor de San Simón of Cochabamba in Bolivia and is owner and co-founder of La Noticia Newspaper. Her work has allowed her to get involved in a variety of Hispanic outreach and business projects including public forums, training sessions, legislative conferences, festivals and community events. She serves on the American Red Cross Board of Directors. Loraine received the SBA Business Advocate Recognition in 2007, the NAHCC Outstanding Leadership and Service Award in 2008 and the 'Women In Business Advocate of the Year' from the U.S. Small Business Administration in 2010.

Loraine Segovia-Paz plans to earn her MBA in Nashville and has recently been appointed to the Metropolitan Nashville Human Relation Commission by Mayor Karl Dean.



GIL VEDA

Gil Veda is a noted painter, composer and publisher born in Puerto Rico. Collectors of his works include past presidents, celebrities and people from all over the world who appreciate Portraits, Impressionism, Surrealism and his Earth Vision Art. Notable collectors and estate holdings of Gil Veda's works include: Priscilla Presley, Gov. George C. Wallace, Hank Williams, Sr./Jr., Bruce Addington, Mayor Beverley Briley, Gov. Frank Clement, Chet Atkins, Johnny Cash, Dick Clark, Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson, Pres. John F. Kennedy, Dolly Parton, Mario Ferrari, Joseph Swanson and Ray Webb. In 2010 Gil received the "Arts & Entrepreneurship Advocate of the Year Award" from the U.S Small Business Administration, *'For assisting artists and entrepreneurs, in obtaining counseling*

and financing either directly or through advocacy efforts to increase the availability of capital'.



HOLLY SPANN

Holly Spann is a life-long political activist and adoption reform advocate. She served as president of the Nashville Women's Political Caucus in 2006 and served three consecutive terms as Vice President-Legislation. She also holds a seat on the board of the Tennessee Women's Political Caucus. Holly is the State Representative for the American Adoption Congress, a national organization devoted to education and advocacy, which promotes honesty, openness, and respect for family connections in adoption, foster care, and assisted reproduction. Holly works at Vanderbilt Medical Center.



MERCEDES SUAREZ

Mercedes Suarez was born in San Luis Potosí, Mexico. After finishing her accounting studies at CBtis 106 technical school, she moved to Houston, Texas with her husband and then to Nashville to open Park Avenue Cleaners. Through a partnership Mercedes was able to open a third store in 2009. She is an active participant of chamber activities especially business literacy and labor compliance related educational programs. She is a self made entrepreneur and mother of three children.



TOMMY VALLEJOS

Tommy Vallejos was born in Roswell, NM. As a Staff Sergeant in the US Army he fought in the first Gulf War leading an infantry platoon from the 101st Airborne Division into combat. He was awarded the Bronze Star for actions in the Gulf War. As a Sergeant First Class he served three years as a Drill Sgt at Ft Knox, Ky turning civilians into soldiers. His overseas tours included tours in Panama and Germany. He retired with over 21 years and today he serves in two capacities one as a care pastor over a 2200 member church in Clarksville, TN, and as the Director of H.O.P.E. (Hispanic Organization for Progress & Education).

Tommy is a graduate of the North Tennessee Bible Institute and Seminary with a Bachelor in Practical Theology. In 2010 He became the first Hispanic elected to the Montgomery County Commission