

NJSBA
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE



DIVERSITYSUMMIT

DIVERSITY
AT A
CROSSROADS

**The Global Rise of Nativism,
Nationalism and Extremism**

Wednesday, June 26, 2019
New Jersey Law Center
New Brunswick

Speaker Bios

Welcome Remarks

Evelyn Padin is the first Latina president of the association, New Jersey's leading group for lawyers, judges and legal professionals.

Padin, a Jersey City practitioner who handles family law and personal injury matters, will focus the efforts of the association on ensuring access to the justice system through holding volunteer events in several inner-city communities during the course of the year; launching the next steps of Lawyers Helping Lawyers, a program to aid attorneys facing a medical crisis; expanding diversity and inclusion efforts in the NJSBA and legal profession; continuing to press for passage of legislation to level the playing field for professionals; and raising awareness and funds from the legal community to feed New Jersey's children who do not have enough to eat.

Her practice focuses on personal injury litigation and family matters. She is a former municipal court judge.

Padin has extensive experience in the association, including serving on its Nominating, Diversity, Meeting Arrangements and Program, Finance and Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments committees. She also belongs to the Women in the Profession and Family Law sections. She previously served on the Nominating Committee. She is also a trustee of the Hudson County Bar Association, serves on the board of governors of the New Jersey Association for Justice, and is a former trustee of the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey. Padin is a founding member of the Justice Virginia Long American Family Inns of Court in Hudson County.

She owns several businesses in Jersey City and is active with the Carevel Foundation. She is a graduate of Rutgers University, has a master's degree in social work from Fordham University, and earned her law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law.

Maria P. Vallejo is a civil litigation attorney with extensive experience representing clients in commercial litigation, government-entity defense, and personal injury actions. Her practice includes discrimination, employment and contract breach matters. She has effectively represented the State and County of Hudson in thousands of bail forfeiture matters, multiple successful appeals.

For four consecutive years from 2014 through 2017, New Jersey Monthly Magazine has named Vallejo to its list of Rising Stars® in the field of General Litigation. No more than 2.5 percent of the attorneys in the State are named to Rising Stars®. In August 2013, the New Jersey Law Journal named Vallejo to its "New Leader of the Bar" list, recognizing her as one of the State's 40 accomplished lawyers under the age of 40. Formerly known as "40 Under 40", the list identifies a select group of distinguished young attorneys selected for their outstanding career achievements, and for their contribution to the legal community through their leadership in bar and other activities.

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Vallejo joined Chasan Lamparello Mallon & Cappuzzo, PC, in 2008, after completing a judicial clerkship with the Honorable Peter F. Bariso Jr., A.J.S.C., Hudson County Vicinage and working as a journalist for nearly 10 years, during which time her articles have appeared in *Dow Jones Newswires* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Cedric Ashley is a solo attorney practicing as Ashley Law Firm in Princeton. Ashley's practice focuses on employment litigation, criminal litigation, and business litigation, and related workplace matters. Ashley holds B.A. and J.D. degrees from Rutgers University and a Master of Divinity degree from Drew University Theological School. Ashley also engages in the areas of coaching, training, and development of professionals and holds the following professional certifications: Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) Certified Practitioner through the Center for Applications of Psychological Type (CAPT); Social and Emotional Intelligence Profile (SEIP) from the Institute for Social & Emotional Intelligence (ISEI); Caliper Profile Certified through the Caliper Corporation; and Emotional Intelligence EQ-I 2.0 through Multi-Health Systems (MHS). After graduating from law school, Ashley served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office where his responsibilities encompassed all phases of criminal litigation, including grand jury presentations, trials, and appellate brief writing. After leaving the Manhattan D.A.'s Office, Ashley became associated with the law firm of Pitney Hardin Kipp & Szuch LLP (now Day Pitney LLP). As a litigation associate his practice areas encompassed corporate and complex commercial litigation, healthcare fraud, internal investigations, corporate grand jury investigations, and white-collar criminal defense. Thereafter, Ashley served as Director of Academic Development at Rutgers Law School- Newark. Ashley currently a member of the American Bar Association (ABA) and New Jersey State Bar Association (NJSBA). Within the ABA he serves as the Assistant Editor of the ABA GPSolo Magazine and served as the Diversity Director of the ABA GPSolo Division for the 2017-2018 bar year. He is also as an elected member of the General Council of ABA GPSolo Division for the 2017 – 2021 term. Within the NJSBA Ashley has served as Co-Chair of the Diversity Committee of NJSBA from 2017-2019 and as the Co-Chair of the Law Office Management Committee from 2017-2019.

Values for the 21st Century Society: The Promise of Diversity

Robert L. Lattimer is recognized as a trusted strategic adviser to the presidents of countries, chief executive officers, and to the leaders of emerging organizations. He is a results-oriented expert regarding strategy and public policy, and diversity in society and within the global workforce.

Lattimer is the published author of more than twenty four peer review articles and several book chapters that address issues of strategy, diversity, public policy, and global competitiveness. His diversity research helped to shape United States Public Policy in higher education pertaining to the Supreme Court of the United States of America, *Barbara Grutter V. Lee Bollinger*, the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan, at which the Court affirmed diversity as the nation's law in higher education by a decision of 5 of the 9 justices of the Court; Robert also served as an authority of the Court.

Lattimer was appointed by the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, as the lead consultant to assist the national leadership Public Service, with its transformation and reconstruction plans during the release of Nelson Mandela from prison. Robert worked with the President, Executive Chairman Maxwell Tamsanqua Maisela, and many others that provided a new vision, strategy, and leadership for the country, regarding the successful social and economic transformation process period covering 1996 to 2008.

Lattimer has also performed as a member of the teaching faculty at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, and as a Scholar for Diversity Studies, at the John J. Heldrich Center, both at Rutgers University. He was a Partner at Andersen/Accenture Consulting in the firm's strategy practice; a Global Practice Leader of Diversity Consulting, at Towers Perrin Consulting; Vice President and Director, at the J. Walter Thompson Company; and a Manager of Organization Planning at Johnson & Johnson.

Lattimer served his country as a combat Marine, being awarded two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star medal with the Combat "V". He was selected as One of the Ten Outstanding Young-men of America with former Vice President of the United States, Albert Gore, Jr.

Lattimer's international travel involved France, Australia, Ireland, India, Sri Lanka, Republic of South Africa, Namibia, Canada, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom, where he performed as a consultant, visiting professor, lecturer, keynote speaker, and examined the economic and management processes.

Lattimer is a 1973 honors graduate with a dual degree in economics and political science from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey and from the Columbia Business School, the elite Arden House Program 1978.

Closing the Borders? The Future of U.S. Immigration and Citizenship in the Wake of Nationalism and Nativism Trends

Michael Noriega is a partner with Bramnick, Rodriguez, Grabas, Arnold & Mangan in Scotch Plains, NJ, where he leads the immigration section and co-manages the criminal section. He has dedicated his practice to assisting clients with legal matters throughout Northern New Jersey. He has argued many times on behalf of his clients in the local immigration courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Further, he appears regularly in Superior Court and Municipal Courts throughout the State, the Immigration Courts of New Jersey and New York, and various other states for immigration matters. Mr. Noriega has appeared before the Supreme Court of New Jersey where he argued on behalf of the ACLU in the matters of State v. Kaltner and State v. Morgan, in addition to several reported decisions before the NJ Supreme Court and Appellate Division.

Noriega began his career as the Law Clerk to the Hon. Camille M. Kenny in the Civil Division of the Hudson Vicinage, before becoming an Assistant Deputy Public Defender in the Essex County Adult Trial Region from 2003 to 2008. During his tenure there, he handled hundreds of cases involving all forms of criminal charges from street level drug charges to racketeering charges in the first degree, robbery, possession of weapons and murder, to name a few.

Noriega opened his own practice in Newark, where he added an immigration practice to his ongoing criminal practice, where he was able to assist a diverse group of clients with needs that spanned across the entire state. Michael grew his practice and developed an area of what is colloquially referred to as “Crimmigration” where he devoted a vast amount of time consulting with criminal defense attorneys throughout the state on the immigration impact of criminal convictions. He began lecturing extensively on this topic throughout the state and in various international meetings, including Costa Rica and Colombia.

In 2014, Noriega took his practice to the firm of Bramnick, Rodriguez, Grabas, Arnold & Mangan, a firm specializing in personal injury, workers compensation and criminal matters. Michael opened and continues to manage the firm’s immigration section, and has co-lead the criminal division at the Bramnick firm.

Noriega has devoted a great deal of his time providing pro bono services to underprivileged communities offering “know your rights” seminars, providing free legal reviews of immigration status and naturalization open-houses throughout the state. He has lectured extensively to groups ranging from the ACDL, ACLU, Office of the Public Defender, NJSBA, NJAJ, local Bar Associations and the AOC Judicial Conference.

Noriega volunteers at his local community Educational Enrichment Foundation, supporting the efforts of the educators in his district, and he is the Board President of a non-profit in Newark, leading the way for survivors of gender abuse violence throughout the world, Sanar Institute.

His greatest pride is in his four daughters, with whom he and his wonderful wife try to spend every moment of free time; that is, free time not devoted to the above endeavors.

Noriega is available for consultations with criminal defendants in need of assistance in determining the impact that their criminal cases may have on their immigration matters.

Adalgiza A. Núñez, Esq. is a solo practitioner with an office located in Newark, N.J. and practices in the areas of criminal defense, appellate litigation, and immigration law. Núñez began her private practice career with the firm of Arseneault, Whipple, Fassett, and Azzarello, LLP, where she provided full service representation, handling criminal defense matters from the initial client interview to conclusion, including trial.

She has served as a law clerk for the Hon. Susan D. Wigenton in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, from 2009 to 2011, and for the Hon. Amy P. Chambers in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division, from 2008 to 2009. Nuñez, earned her J.D. in 2008 from Rutgers School of Law - Newark, where she was an Articles Editor of the Rutgers Law Review, Alumni Liaison for the Association of Latin American Law Students, and a Teaching Assistant for the Legal Research and Writing Program. Prior to law school, Nuñez worked in the financial field for a global securities services company, where she provided money market mutual fund clearing services to broker-dealers. Nuñez earned her B.A. in Economics from Rutgers University in 2002.

Asma Warsi is a solo practitioner in New Brunswick, New Jersey, whose primary practice areas include immigration law, family law, corporate law, and municipal court practice. Within immigration law, Warsi concentrates on cases dealing with Asylum (based on political opinion, gender, sexual orientation, membership in a particular social group), the Violence against Women Act, family-based petitions, consular processing, adjustment of status, citizenship, relief from removal (also commonly referred to as deportation), and immigration appeals. Within family law, Warsi's practice focuses on all aspects of family law including international divorces, dissolution, child custody, and post-divorce motions.

Warsi was formerly the Executive Director of the Boaz Community Corporation, an immigration legal resource center in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Warsi began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in the Appeals Bureau with the Office of the District Attorney, Bronx County. Ms. Warsi is licensed to practice in New Jersey, New York, and the Second and Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Warsi's publications include co-authoring the chapter entitled "India and Pakistan on the Brink: Considerations for Truth, Reconciliation and Forgiveness" in Anie Kalayjian and Ray Paloutzian, *Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Psychological Pathways to Conflict Transformation and Peace Building*, published by Springer. In addition, Warsi has published "Professional Balance: Not Just a Women's Issue," *New Jersey Lawyer Magazine*, February 2015 No. 292, (2015) published by the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Warsi received her B.A. from Rutgers University in History & Mid-East Studies, an M.A. from New York University in Near-Eastern Studies, and a J.D. from Rutgers University, School of Law, Newark.

Warsi's volunteer activities include: Secretary, Board of Directors, New Jersey Immigration Policy Network, from 2009 to 2011; Member, Board of Directors, New Jersey Immigration Policy Network, from 2006 to 2011; Member, Board of Directors, Manavi, from 2009 to 2012; Chair, Board of Directors, Manavi, from 2011 to 2012; Volunteer Attorney, Manavi Legal Clinics, 2009 to present; Advisor, Alliance for Racial and Social Justice (grass roots organization seeking to end racism and dismantle white privilege), 2011 to present; Member of Rutgers Student Legal Services Working Group on Immigration Issues, 2014 to present; Member of United Way of Central Jersey Working Group on Immigration Issues, 2017 to present.

Warsi has also appeared on local television and newspapers discussing various aspects of immigration law.

Mainstreaming Hate: The Anti-Immigrant Movement in the U.S.

Amy Feinman serves as Northeast Area Civil Rights Counsel for the Anti-Defamation League. In that capacity, she oversees ADL's civil rights work in 13 states and advises 5 of ADL's regional offices – New England, Connecticut, New York/New Jersey, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. Prior to joining ADL, Amy worked as a litigation associate at the law firm Latham & Watkins in Boston, where she maintained a pro bono practice focused on education equity and juvenile justice cases. Amy is a 2009 graduate of the University of Michigan and a 2012 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Media and the Reporting on the Rise of Extremism

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Hannan Adely is a reporter at NorthJersey.com and the USA Today Network who covers diversity issues with a focus on Muslim Americans, Arab Americans, civil rights, hate and extremism, and refugees. She has a passion for telling stories about local families that help readers gain an understanding of national and international news. Hannan was previously a reporter at The Journal News, The Star-Ledger and The Norwood News.

Lauren James-Weir provides litigation counseling primarily in the areas of First Amendment and media law and has played a significant role in advancing media law in the state of New Jersey. She represents both media and non-media clients in matters involving free speech; defamation; invasion of privacy; access to records under New Jersey’s Open Public Records Act and the federal Freedom

of Information Act; access to meetings under New Jersey's Open Public Meetings Act; access to courtrooms; cameras in the courtroom; the Newperson's Privilege; and legislative initiatives impacting the media. She works closely with numerous news organizations and newspapers throughout the tristate area on a variety of legal issues affecting the media and provides media clients with pre-publication review. In addition, Ms. James-Weir served on the New Jersey Supreme Court Bench Bar Media Subcommittee that drafted the Supreme Court Guidelines on Electronic Devices in the Courtroom, which were approved by the New Jersey Supreme Court and became effective in February 2015.

Amol Sinha serves as the Executive Director of the ACLU-NJ, having taken the helm in 2017. He brings to the ACLU-NJ a vision to make the organization a more collaborative, accessible resource for all of New Jersey, and he strives to create an even better, even more welcoming Garden State.

Prior to joining the ACLU-NJ, Sinha was a policy advocate at the Innocence Project, where he led state-level policy campaigns nationwide to address wrongful convictions. From 2010-2015, Sinha was the director of the Suffolk County Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union, where he led efforts to defend and promote the constitutional rights of all Suffolk County residents, particularly around policing and criminal justice, immigrants' rights, and education reform. At the NYCLU, Sinha worked on legislation, litigation, and community-based advocacy, and gained a deep understanding of the need to work collaboratively with community members, advocates, and government officials in order to advance policy.

Sinha is also an adjunct professor at Marymount Manhattan College, where he has taught courses on constitutional law, civil rights, media law, and criminal justice. Additionally, Sinha is the president of the South Asian Bar Association of New York and co-chair of the public interest committee of the South Asian Bar Association of North America.

Sinha holds a B.A. in journalism and economics from New York University, and a law degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law where he was a Public Service Scholar. Most importantly, Sinha grew up in Lawrenceville, NJ, and is a proud product of Lawrence Township Public Schools. His role at the ACLU-NJ merges two central passions: advocating for constitutional rights and New Jersey.

Reports from the Frontlines: Prosecuting Hate, Bias and Intimidation While Respecting Free Speech

Camelia M. Valdes is the Passaic County Prosecutor. When Valdes was appointed on May 16, 2009 by Governor Jon S. Corzine and confirmed by the New Jersey State Legislature, she became the first Latina county prosecutor in the State of New Jersey, the first woman prosecutor in Passaic County, and the first lead prosecutor of Dominican ancestry in the United States. Governor Chris Christie re-appointed Valdes to a second term on June 26, 2015. As the chief law enforcement official in Passaic County, Valdes is responsible for the management of approximately 185 assistant prosecutors, detectives, victim advocates and support staff, a \$20 million office budget and the oversight of 16 municipal police departments, the police departments of William Paterson and Montclair State Universities and the Passaic County Sheriff's Department.

Valdes is a career prosecutor. She served as a Municipal Prosecutor in the City of Newark, a Deputy Attorney General in the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, an Assistant Governor's Counsel to Governor Christine Todd Whitman and Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco, and as an Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark. Her experience has ranged from investigating and prosecuting municipal offenses to complex federal crimes that included human trafficking, health care fraud, financial offenses, and violent crimes.

Valdes is extensively involved in criminal law policy, bar associations, and community service work. The Hispanic National Bar Association named Valdes the 2016 Latina Lawyer of the Year.

Born to Dominican parents in the Bronx and raised in Newark, New Jersey, Valdes is a product of the Newark Public Schools. She received her undergraduate degree in sociology from Seton Hall University in 1993, her law degree from Rutgers Law School-Newark in 1996 and her LL.M. in Trial Advocacy from Temple University in May 2001. As the proud mother of two beautiful autistic girls, Isabela and Elsa, ages 14 and 12, Valdes endeavors to raise awareness about autism.

Closing Argument: Where Do We Go From Here? The Role of the Lawyer in Combatting Extremism and Hate

Raymond M. Brown concentrates his practice in white collar criminal defense, international human rights issues, internal investigations and complex commercial litigation.

He has defended clients in state and federal courts and before administrative tribunals. He is a leading figure in the developing area of law related to the regulation and enforcement of business requirements for human rights compliance.

Brown has extensive experience as a trial lawyer and has handled a wide variety of criminal and civil matters representing individuals, corporations and government entities. He most recently represented U.S. Senator Robert Menendez as Defense Co-Counsel against criminal allegations of public corruption and bribery brought by the U.S. government, in a highly publicized trial which ended in a hung jury and subsequent mistrial. Shortly thereafter, all charges against Senator Menendez were dismissed by the Department of Justice.

Brown has also appeared in a number of other high profile proceedings, including the nine-month trial involving former U.S. Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan and the successful eight-year defense of senior executives of a major multinational corporation charged with environmental violations. Brown has appeared in courts in twelve states and has conducted investigations in the U.S. and in Kenya, El Salvador, the Cayman Islands, Switzerland, the Bahamas, Colombia and Sierra Leone. His international experience includes qualifying as Counsel before the International Criminal Court in The Hague and serving as Co-Lead Defense Counsel at the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Brown counsels foreign and domestic multinationals on a broad range of corporate risk management, governance, and transactional issues, including those at the intersection of human rights and business concerns. He advises on compliance obligations, supply chain management issues, and the potential reputational risks and “bottom line” impacts facing corporations whose operational practices become entangled in human rights violations, both domestically and on the international stage.

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