



## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Dominican Affairs

February 11-12, 2017

Rutgers School of Law - Center for Law & Justice

123 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102

### Saturday, February 11th

**9:00AM - 2:30PM Annual Retreat**

**Room 292**

#### **Board of Directors of the Dominican American National Roundtable**

Raul Acosta, Connecticut  
Jose Aleman, Rhode Island  
Daisy Baez, Florida  
Dr. Alejandro Benjamin, Sr. Vice President  
Rev. Alvin Bridgewater, Upstate New York  
Adolfo G. Cuevas, Ph.D., Massachusetts  
Ernie Dominguez, Esq., Maryland  
Dr. Miguel Hernandez, MD, Vice President  
Heidy Hernandez, New Jersey  
Fiordaliza Frias, Florida  
Ana Medina, Lawrence, Massachusetts  
Isidro Medina, New York  
Antonio Martinez, Esq., New York  
Claribel Martinez-Marmolejos, President

Dr. Maria Teresa Montilla, New Jersey  
Nestor Montilla, Sr., Chairman  
Dan-el Padilla, Ph.D., New York  
Francesca Peña, Dominican Republic  
Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Maryland  
Angelina Ramirez, New York  
Dulce Ramos, New York  
Janna Rodriguez, Youth National President  
Augusto Suarez, Youth Vice President  
Seny Taveras, Esq., New York  
Nestor Guaríen Taveras-Sepulveda, Puerto Rico  
Dr. Maria Trusa, New York  
Franklin Ventura, DANR Youth Vice President  
Juan Villar, New Jersey  
*Corporation Counsel: PATRICIA BOMBELYN, ESQ.*

#### **12:00PM Joint Session with the Board of Directors of the National Dominican American Council**

Alexander Bejarán, Puerto Rico  
Victor Coronado, New Jersey  
Alberto Correa, Ph.D., Puerto Rico  
José Cruz, New York  
Juana Edmond, New Jersey  
Peter Fontanes, New York  
Leodany Inojosa, Puerto Rico  
Santiago Matias, Massachusetts  
Ana Marchena, Ph.D., Puerto Rico & US Virgin Islands

Yohanny Mendez, New Jersey  
Sarita Montilla, Pennsylvania  
Belkis Peña, Rhode Island  
Ana Perdomo, Massachusetts  
Hector Ramirez, Bronx, New York  
Juan P. Reyes, Manhattan, NY  
Mildred E. Rojas Disla, New Jersey  
Delfin Vásquez, Pennsylvania  
Ing. Francisco "Pachin" Ramirez, Advisor

#### **1:00PM PUBLIC SESSION:**

Presentation by Florinda Rojas, Executive Director, *Instituto Nacional de Migración*, Dominican Republic

Presentation by Journalist Miguel Perez, Hidden Hispanic Heritage Project

**The Dominican American National Roundtable (DANR)** is the only national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in Washington, DC, advocating for the socio-economic and civic development of Dominicans in the United States. DANR is presided over by a National Board of Directors led by an executive committee composed of a president, a vice president, a youth president, a chairman, a treasurer, and a vice president representing Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**The National Dominican American Council (NDAC)** is a civic-community-engagement and public relations entity composed of local member councils in the United States and territories, including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, with the role of setting the national agenda and working jointly with the [Dominican American National Roundtable \(DANR\)](#) and progressive entities advocating for the socio-economic and political enfranchisement of all Latinos and Dominican-Americans in areas concerning education, economic development, health, immigration and community empowerment.

**Saturday, February 11**

**2:30PM - 4:30PM ILS Faith-Based Initiative**

**RM 010**

***The Church as Agent of Social Change / La Iglesia Como Agente de Cambio Social***

*Why participation of the faith-based community is essential in carrying out the Latino Agenda in New Jersey; and how should it be done? / Por que la participación de la Comunidad de Fe es esencial en la implementación de la Agenda Latina in New Jersey y cómo debe hacerse?*

**Moderator:** Néstor Montilla, Sr. **Recorders:** Rev. Juan Rosario & Rev. Cleo Santiago **Facilitator:** Rev. Fernando Plaza

**Panelists:**

1. Rev. Manuel Álvarez, Superintendente, Asambleas de Dios  
*Denominational councils and civic participation / Los concilios denominacionales y su participación cívica.*
2. Rev. Alvin Bridgewater, Dominican American National Roundtable (DANR)  
*Erosion of social values: family, institutions, education, government, business, courts / Erosión de valores sociales: familia, instituciones, educación, gobierno, empresas, tribunals.*
3. Councilman Angel Fuentes, Hispanic Leadership Association of New Jersey (HLA)  
*The church and the Latino agenda / La iglesia y la agenda Latina*
4. Rev. José López, Latino Leadership Alliance of NJ (LLANJ)  
*All theology is political / Toda teología es política: Cada acción de toda persona e institución humana ineludiblemente es política, y no meterse en política es una militante opción política, y valga la redundancia, ya que esta postura implica apoyar de hecho el orden de cosas imperante injusto e inhumano, el cual todos estamos llamados a cambiar." - Padre Carlos Novoa en Derecho, Política y Cristianismo.*
5. Rev. Cesar Martínez, Latino Pastors Association of Paterson (LPAP)  
*The social function of the primitive church: Governs, dispenses justice and provides social services (widows, orphans and the poor) / La función social de la iglesia primitiva: Gobierna, dispensa justicia y ofrece servicios sociales (viudas, huérfanos y pobres).*
6. Dra. María Teresa Montilla, Institute for Latino Studies, (ILS)  
*Some achievements of the contemporary church: foundation of the country, civil rights, the Christian Coalition / Logros de la Iglesia contemporánea: fundación del país, derechos civiles, Coalición Cristiana.*
7. Rev. John Muniz, Dean and VP of Academic Affairs, Universidad Teológica Shema Israel  
*Church and Education*
8. Rev. Fabio Sosa, Latino Pastors Association of Paterson (LPAP)  
*A local organization example / un ejemplo de organización local*
9. Nestor Montilla, Sr.  
*Founding of a statewide entity of faith-based leaders to advocate for NJ diverse communities. Fundación de una entidad estatal entre líderes de fe para abogar en favor de nuestras comunidades.*

**9:00AM - 10:30AM Plenary Session**

**Herbert M. Ellend Atrium**

**Conversation about formulating better social and public policies in the Dominican Republic to the benefit of immigrants and all Dominicans around the world**

*This plenary session offers a roundtable discussion about Executive Order # 631-11, emitted by the President of the Dominican Republic, creating The National Institute of Immigration known in Spanish as “El Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM-RD)”. El Instituto’s main objective is to help formulate immigration policies in the Dominican Republic that would better address the status of immigrants and visitors, and particularly Dominicans from around the world. The INM-RD aims at recommending efficient, transparent and safe migratory services, while promoting respect for human and civil rights in accordance to international laws.*

*INM-RD was originally created to assist the Dominican government in formulating better public policies to prevent problems generated by DR Constitutional Court’s Sentence 168-13 and by the implementation of the DR Citizenship and Naturalization Act and the National Regularization Plan to Adjust the Status of Foreigners known in Spanish as “El Plan Nacional de Regularización de Extranjeros”. The plenary session will also consider DR foreign social policy aimed at assisting Dominicans facing socio-economic contingencies around the world.*

Esta sesión plenaria es una conversación-Mesa Redonda sobre la Orden Ejecutiva N° 631-11, emitida por el Presidente de la República Dominicana creando el “Instituto Nacional de Inmigración (INM-RD)”. El Instituto tiene como objetivo principal ayudar a formular políticas de inmigración, públicas y sociales que permitan a la República Dominicana tratar más efectivamente con la situación presente de los inmigrantes y los visitantes al país, y dominicanos residentes atreves de todo el mundo. El Instituto recomienda al gobierno dominicano políticas que de manera eficaz, transparente y segura ofrezcan servicios migratorios, respetando los derechos humanos y civiles conforme a las leyes internacionales.

INM-RD fue creado originalmente para asistir al gobierno dominicano en la formulación de mejores políticas públicas para prevenir los problemas generados por la Ley 168-13 d168-13 del Tribunal Constitucional de DR y por la aplicación de la Ley de Ciudadanía y Naturalización de DR y el Plan Nacional de Regularización de Extranjeros. La sesión plenaria examinará también la política social de la República Dominicana encaminadas a asistir a los dominicanos en el exterior a tratar su condición socio-económica y cívica: status migratorio, deportación y otros asuntos. Q&A

**Speakers:** Alexis Lantigua, Ministro de Política Social Exterior, Dominican Republic

Dr. Irma Nicasio, Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo & Advisor to DR Senate

Ms. Florinda Rojas, Executive Director, Instituto Nacional de Migración, Dom. Rep.

**Moderator:** Nestor Montilla, Sr., DANR & NDAC Chairman

**Coordinator:** Marleny Cruz      **Recorder:** Carla Jimenez      **Facilitator:** Eloisa Mercedes

**10:30AM - 12:30PM Concurrent Workshops**

**Roundtable Discussion: Women in Politics / Mujeres en Política**

**Room 010**

*The year of women. Why there were so many women elected to public office this year? How can we continue the trend? / El año de la mujer. ¿Por qué fueron tantas mujeres elegidas este año? ¿Cómo podemos continuar esta ola?*

**Moderator:** Maria Teresa Montilla      **Recorder:** Cathy Polanco      **Facilitator:** Sandra Batres

**Panelists:** Legislator Claribel Martinez-Marmolejos, Puerto Rico

Senator Ana Quezada, Rhode Island

Senator Nilsa Cruz-Pérez, New Jersey

State Representative Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Maryland

Former Commissioner Fior D’Aliza Frías, Florida

Fmr Legislator Ana Marchena, Ph.D., Puerto Rico

NYS Assembly District Leader Yudelka Tapia,

State Representative Daisy Baez, Florida

Senator Marisol Alcantara, NY

Janna Rodriguez, DANR Youth President

Ana Maria Garcia, US Census

**Responders:** Bethania Marmolejos, Maria del Pilar, Lydia Valencia, Jeanny Ramirez, Juanita Lopez, Charito Cisneros, Sandra Harris, Nely Celi, Elis Sosa, Eloisa Mercedes, Miriam Younan, Rossana Genao, Joanie Morales, Carla Jimenez, Patricia Bullon & Marleny Cruz.

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10:30AM - 12:30PM *Youth Initiative / Iniciativa Juvenil*

Room 020

*A statewide student mobilizing engine for success / Una operación juvenil estatal para el éxito. How education and entrepreneurship could make a smashing combination / ¿Cómo la combinación de educación y negocios puede arrojar mejores resultados?*

**Moderator:** Maria Isabel Alarcon **Recorder:** Carlos Salinas **Facilitator:** Alex Calixto Rodriguez  
**Coordinators:** Ibanox Taveras, Augusto Suarez and Franklin Ventura  
**Panelists:** Mayor Dan Rivera, Lawrence, MA, Ernie Dominguez, Esq., Professor Jose Aleman, Dan-el Padilla Peralta, Ph.D. & Seny Taveras, Esq., Commissioner Manny Martinez

10:30AM - 12:30PM *Health Professionals Initiatives: For community advancement / Iniciativas de Profesionales de la Salud para el avance comunitario*

Room 080

**Moderators:** Dr. Miguel Hernández  
**Recorder:** Sebastian Rodríguez **Facilitator:** Cathy Polanco  
**Panelists:** Dr. Juan Tapia, Dr. Maria Trusa, Ms. Dulce Maria Ramos, Adolfo G. Cuevas, Ph.D., Dr José Goris, Dr Francisco Roa, DMA Executive Director, Professor Claritza Abreu, & Dr. Diogenes Fermin George A. Zeppenfeldt, President & CEO Association of Hispanic Healthcare Executives and Chair, Roundtable of Professional Hispanic Health Association

10:30 AM - 12:30PM *National Dominican American Council Plenary Meeting & Swearing-in Concejo Nacional Dominicano Americano: Capacitando para Apoderamiento*

Room 090

**Moderator:** Chairman Nestor Montilla, Sr. **Facilitator:** Gino Hernandez **Reporters:** Sebastian Rodriguez, Elvin Dominicci, Erick Cedano & Jose Colon **Recorder:** Edwin Matias  
**Participants:** NDAC member delegations from New York, New Jersey, Florida, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Puerto Rico, Maryland, and Connecticut & Council of Barahoneros in USA Mayor Henry Abraham James, Mayor of Villa Central, Barahona, DR, Mildred Rojas, Dr. Alberto Correa, Yohanny Mendez, Belkis Peña, Gino Hernandez, Sarita Montilla, Ailin Rivera, Hector Ramirez and members of NDAC National Board of Directors.

12:30PM - 3:00PM *Lunch/Plenary Session*

Herbert M. Ellend Atrium

- I. Welcome / Introduction of Program / Acknowledgements - Amiris Perez-Bonilla
- II. President Remarks by Dr. Maria Teresa Montilla
- III. **Pep-Talk Panel** moderated by Nestor Montilla, Sr.  
Panelists deliver 3-5 minute fast-pace remarks about their life stories and conclude by providing pragmatic advice about empowering the next generation of leaders.  
Hon Dan Rivera, Mayor, Lawrence, MA  
Hon Ana Quezada, Senator, RI  
Hon Joseline Peña-Melnyk, State Representative, MD  
Hon Daisy Baez, State Representative, FL  
Hon Marisol Alcantara, Senator, NY  
Hon Kim Guadagno, New Jersey Lieutenant Governor

**Keynote by Silvio Torres-Saillant, Ph.D., Syracuse University**  
"The reality of our *legacy in USA*"

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