



Hispanic Women's Council

Special Edition 2016 Newsletter

The Hispanic Women's Council Hosts **Sonia Sotomayor** Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States

April 5, 2016

Embassy Suites, Albuquerque, NM

Justice Sonia Sotomayor greets an audience of 600 guests; they were on their feet applauding and cheering.



Justice Sotomayor immediately left the stage to get close to her audience. She eventually walked the entire room making personal connections as she delivered her talk and answered questions from HWC members.

Photos included in this newsletter, and that contain images of Justice Sonia Sotomayor, meet the conditions specified by the Public Information Office of the U. S. Supreme Court.

2016 Membership

*Dr. Teresita E. Aguilar
Provost/VP Academic
Affairs, Highlands Univ.*

*Marianna Anaya
Communications Dir.,
Albuquerque Teachers
Federation*

*Clara Apodaca
Former First Lady of
New Mexico*

*Lillian Apodaca
Partner, Bingham,
Hurst & Apodaca, PC*

*Lorraine Baca
Retired Teacher, APS*

*Dr. Marlene Ballejos
Assistant Dean for
Admissions, UNM
School of Medicine*

*Andrea Blea
Retired, UNM*

Marge Blue

Valerie J. Borrego, CPA

*Jane Braithwaite
Homemaker*

*Elizabeth Cárdenas
Retired Dance Teacher*

*Theresa Cárdenas
Climate and Energy
Consultant*

Philly Carrasco, Retired

*Kay Carrico, Owner
Experts in Exports*

*Margaret J. Chavez
Retired Accountant*

*Kathy Coffey, APS
Educ. Diagnostician*

*Dr. Trinidad de Jesus
Arguello*

*Dr. Rose T. Díaz
Research Historian
Indian Pueblo Cultural
Center*

Un mensaje de la presidente

Estimadas Amigas,

We are deeply honored that Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, accepted our invitation to come to Albuquerque and deliver a talk to our membership. Her visit was unparalleled and historic. Her graciousness in meeting privately with our Board, visiting one-on-one with our Membership and signing her book, and then delivering such a powerful message to the general audience is testament to her caring and love for humankind.

We have Raqui Martinez and Dr. Merrilee Foreman to thank for setting this historic event in motion two years ago when Dr. Foreman was President of HWC. Raqui suggested extending the invitation and Dr. Foreman sent the letter and got the ball rolling.

Approvals and clearances by the U.S. Department of Justice came in stages. Final approval was granted only three weeks prior to the event, and the last clearance was granted the evening before the event. The success of this event was due to the detailed planning that took place early on, followed by the exacting and fast-and-furious work of the Planning Committee in the days leading up to the event and as reservations kept pouring in. We had planned for 400 attendees, and in the end had 600!

Kudos to my fellow Planning Committee “comadres”: Dr. Merrilee Foreman, Committee Chair, Raqui Martinez, Vangie Samora and Dr. Vi Florez. I maintain that to organize an event of this magnitude, within such a limited timeframe and following strict protocols, is nothing short of a miracle!

This “special edition” newsletter has been created to capture details of the event for posterity, and it will be deposited in the HWC Archives housed at the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives. I wish to convey my deepest appreciation to Vangie Samora for her dedication, diligence, and hard work in preparing this newsletter as well as the myriad of other details she attends to for HWC.

I wish to thank the HWC Board of Directors for their part in making this event such a success, and to thank every one of you, Esteemed Members, for your support. Just like “it takes a village to bring up a child” it takes a devoted and engaged membership to make an organization thrive.

Un abrazo fuerte a todas.

Elsi Samora Sanchez



Hispanic Women's Council Presents *Las Primeras* Award

The Hispanic Women's Council (HWC) presented the *Las Primeras* Award to Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. The award recognizes women who have achieved a historic first in their field. Justice Sonia Sotomayor is the first Latina Supreme Court Justice in U. S. history.

The award was presented during the private reception with HWC members. Vangie Samora, HWC Board Secretary, presided over the ceremony and presented the Certificate of Award. Dr. Viola Flórez, a past recipient of the award, draped a *mantón* (shawl) across Justice Sotomayor's shoulders, signifying a warm embrace from all the women present.

During the ceremony, Vangie Samora explained the *Las Primeras* Award was established in 1999, and twelve other women have received the Award. Their names, photos and bios were included in a packet presented to Justice Sotomayor.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor wore the *mantón* at the start of the general event, captured in this photo.



Elsi Samora Sanchez read the following bio at the general event:

Sonia Sotomayor was born as the elder of two children in the South Bronx area of New York City, on June 25, 1954. Parents Juan and Celina Baez Sotomayor, of Puerto Rican descent, moved to New York City to raise their children. Sotomayor's family functioned on a very modest income; her mother was a nurse and her father was a factory worker.

After graduating from Cardinal Spellman High School, Sonia Sotomayor attended Princeton University where she was awarded the Pyne Prize, the highest academic award given to Princeton undergraduates, and graduated summa cum laude. She then attended Yale Law School, where she was an editor for the Yale Law Journal. She received her J. D. in 1979, passed the bar in 1980, and immediately began working as an assistant district attorney in Manhattan. In 1984 she entered private practice, making partner at Pavia & Harcourt.

She was nominated by President George H. W. Bush for U. S. District Court Judge in 1992 and was confirmed by the U. S. Senate on August 1992. On June 25, 1997, her 43rd birthday, she was nominated for the U. S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals by President Bill Clinton and was confirmed by the Senate that October. On May 26, 2009, President Barack Obama announced his nomination of Sonia Sotomayor for Supreme Court Justice. The nomination was confirmed by the U.S Senate in August 2009, making her the first Latina Supreme Court Justice in U. S. history.

2016 membership...cont'd

Rosario Fiallos, Retired
Bilingual Education Teacher

Dr. Leila Flores-Dueñas
Assoc. Professor, UNM
College of Education

Dr. Viola E. Florez, Professor
UNM College of Education

Maria Gallegos, Engage-
ment & Policy Strategist,
NM Health Equity Partner-
ship

Dr. Verónica García
Executive Director
NM Voices for Children

Eva Gonzales, Retired
Customer Service Manager

Margaret Gonzales, UNM
Graduate School

Tanya Gonzales, Paralegal

Maria J. Gutiérrez
Financial Planner

Samia Hindi, Educator

Martha E. Janssen, COO
Wealth Mgmt. Group, LLC

Dr. Mari-Luci Jaramillo
Former Ambassador to
Honduras

Teresa Leger de Fernández
Officer, Leger Law and
Strategy, LLC

Edna L. López, Pres./CEO
Compa Industries, Inc.

Letitia Lopez, Retired

Margie Maeastas
Retired College Educator

Esther M. Marquez, Retired
Education Administrator

Josephine Martínez
Retired, FAA

Salomé Martínez-Lutz
Artistic Director/Producer
Teatro Nuevo México

Linda López McAlister
Marketing Assistant, Nation-
al Hispanic Cultural Center

2016 membership...cont'd

Andrea Medina, Teacher
Seven Bar Elem. School

Angelina Medina
Student, 8th Grade

Rosalee Montoya
Writer; Retired, UNM CRTC

Saydra Alvarez Moreno
Student, HWC Scholarship
Recipient

Melita Ortega, Retired

Ana Pacheco, Santa Fe City
Historian/Author

Kathryn Ramsey
APS Instructional Coach

Carmen Rodríguez, Pres.
Carmen Cares Consulting

Mónica Rodríguez
Deputy CEO, 2nd Judicial
District Court

Dr. Valerie Romero-
Leggott, Vice Chancellor for
Diversity, UNM Health Sci-
ences Center

Christina Rosado
Attorney at Law

Terrie Sais
Retired Economist

Dr. Carmen Samora
Director, Julian Samora
Legacy Project

Anita M. Sánchez, Owner
Sanchez & Pinon, LLC

Anna M. Sánchez
Executive Director, National
Hispanic Cultural Center
Foundation

Petra Sánchez, Retired
Public School Educator

Verónica T. Sánchez
Unit Administrator
UNM Extended Learning

Yvonne Sanchez, Teacher
Seven Bar Elem. School



Angelina Medina's Notes. For "extra credit" Angelina Medina took notes, and made a presentation to her 8th-grade classmates. Here are her notes:

My grandma, my mom and I are members of the Hispanic Women's Council. I think I am the youngest member and we are proud to be three generations of women in the HWC.

Sonia Sotomayor was nominated to serve on the Supreme Court by President Obama in 2009. She is the first Latina to become a U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

She has memories of love of family and her culture. She is passionate about law. She speaks to all different groups of people. She said, "I like to talk to audiences about my passions because I hope they will be your passions too."

Law is an organizer of us as a community. Law is for the safety of the majority of the citizens. Some laws are not right. "Laws only happen to you if you let them. Unless you use your voice, you let laws happen to you."

Do not to play to your weaknesses but to your strengths and decide what we can do to better ourselves. "Be interested enough to express your opinion when you think something is wrong." "Family is the center of who you become."

She wasn't sure if she was deserving of her job. She was terrified! Her world would become public in a way she never anticipated. Being the first throws a lot of attention on you. Hispanic groups of every background came together to support her.

The title of her book, My Beloved World, comes from a Puerto Rican poem. She loves parties, poems and music. Her grandmother taught her that loyalty is the greatest thing any person with integrity can have. Her mother was the "neighborhood nurse". She would help everyone.

It is a tradition to not congratulate a person being nominated to the Supreme Court until their confirmation is final so that they don't jinx them in case it doesn't work out. Justice Ruth Ginsburg congratulated her anyway and gave her a book and a note that said "Hooray!" after her first decision was published.

President Obama made her make him two promises: Listen to the team he was putting together to get her confirmed. Keep connected to the community.

She got help from her debate coach in high school. He told her she had to go to an Ivy League school. She was poor and couldn't afford an Ivy school and didn't know what an Ivy League school was. He told her to apply for scholarships.

We can't dream about what we want if we can't get there. Even if we dream we need help to get there. Knowledge doesn't come on its own. Nothing in her past prepared her for her job.

The law has a winner and a loser. The law is not clear because if it was, reasonable people across the country wouldn't disagree. Someone always feels they have been stripped of something that was important to them.

Her main message is... "be kind, do good and always do the right thing."

Editor's note: Angelina's grandmother is Julia Archibeque-Guerra; her mother is Andrea Medina.

Volunteers—No major undertaking like this can happen without volunteers.

Our volunteers were superb—smart and talented and full of enthusiasm. One group handled registration, led by Kim Trujillo who oriented the others: Mary Hooper, Kathryn Ramsey, Corine Trujillo, Micha Rinaldi and Anna Atencio. Another group served as hall and door monitors: Barbara Johnson, Zoila Alvarez, Deshawnda Chaparro, Jessica Pérez, Kirsten Dick. James Iden was the runner. Additionally, our photographer was Carol Vigil and Carla Aragón handled the media. Each one did their job expertly and kept things flowing seamlessly. Thank you for a job well done!



Barbara Johnson



Micha Rinaldi



Anna Atencio



Jim Iden



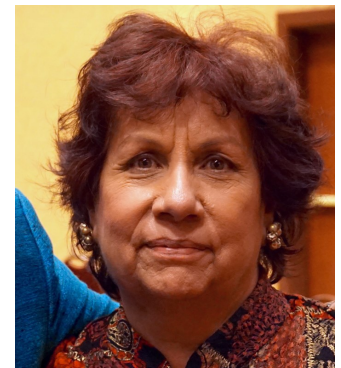
Carol Vigil



Kim Trujillo



Mary Hooper



Corine Trujillo



UNM Law Students, l-r: Kirsten Dick, Zoila Alvarez, Deshawnda Chaparro, Jessica Perez



Carla Aragón



Kathryn Ramsey

2016 Membership....cont'd

Beva Sanchez-Padilla
Southwest Organizing
Project

Paula LeSueur Sandoval
Retired Nurse Practitioner

Mary Frances Santistevan
Retired, APS

María Samora Sedillo
Retired, UNM

Antoinette Silva, Owner
Rose's Pottery House

Rose Silva, Rose's Pottery
House

Sally Skinner

Lucy Sosaya, Retired

Rose Montaña Stein
Retired

Christina Termini, UNM
Graduate Student, HWC
Scholarship Recipient

Citlali Tierney, Co-owner
Marti Services, LLC

Martha Tierney, Co-owner
Marti Services, LLC

Marisa Trujillo
Right of Way Agent, Cobb
Fendley & Associates

Mary Lou Trujillo
Retired NM Health and En-
vironment Dept.

Rosella Peña Trujillo
Docent, National Hispanic
Cultural Center

Theresa L. Trujillo, Director
Presbyterian Health Plan

Martha Twiggs

Francela Valdez, Trainer

Deborah Valerio-Vanderhee
UNM College of Pharmacy
Poison Information Specialist

Carol Vigil, Entrepreneur

Sylvia Vigil-Raines

Victoria Silva Wilger

Reflecting on Justice Sonia Sotomayor's Visit

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

By the Event Planning Committee Members

We planned three events, starting with a private meeting with the HWC Board of Directors and Planning Committee members. At 4:00pm we gathered in a small room at the Embassy Suites Hotel to await Justice Sonia



HWC Board awaiting arrival of Justice Sotomayor

Sotomayor's arrival. She entered the room with a smile on her face and immediately began to engage each person in the room with a handshake and a warm, personal greeting, including the hotel staff. We had set a chair for her at the head of the conference table, but she preferred to sit at the center of the table. We then began a casual conversation...she wanted to know more about HWC, and we talked about the importance of networking. She also shared personal insight about writing her book, My Beloved World. After a group photo was taken by photographer Carol Vigil, she signed our personal copies of her book. For all of us, this half-hour meeting will forever be a highlight of our lives.

Next came a private reception with the members of HWC. Justice Sotomayor took a separate route to the reception room, security in tow. Her route was shorter than ours and she arrived before we did. When we entered the room she was already greeting attendees one-on-one. Justice Sotomayor was interested in every woman's story and didn't rush them, moving from table to table until she had met every single person. She left a lasting impression on all of us. We will never forget her warmth, sincerity and kindness. In the few remaining minutes, the "Las Primeras" Award ceremony took place (see page 3) followed by a book signing.

Time was allotted for Justice Sotomayor to take a break before the public event. The next time we saw her, she was being greeted joyously by 600 guests in the large ballroom.



HWC members brought their personal copies of My Beloved World to be signed by Justice Sotomayor.

The general event is notable for its size and for Justice Sotomayor's ability to connect with such a large crowd at a personal level. The audience jumped to their feet the second she walked in, applauding and cheering thunderously. Justice Sotomayor smiled and waved, obviously appreciative of the reception. She sat down and Dr. Merrilee Foreman, Chair of the Planning Committee, welcomed the Justice and the attendees: *Welcome to this most auspicious event. It is a great honor to have you (Justice Sotomayor) visit with us, the Hispanic Women's Council, and our community here in Albuquerque.*



On behalf of the Council, I also welcome the many dignitaries and distinguished officials in our audience tonight. Last but definitely not least, I would like to thank all of you for coming to visit with our distinguished guest. Periodically, the Council hosts a National guest speaker. This event began as a thought two years ago when my co-chair, Raqui Martinez, suggested Justice Sotomayor as a guest



speaker since she is the first Hispana to be appointed to the United States Supreme Court. We sent a letter, began correspondence with the Justice and her office, and here we are today. We are so honored that Justice Sotomayor accepted our invitation. The HWC is so proud of you! You are truly an inspiration to our students and to all of us.

Elsi Samora Sánchez, HWC President, then came forward to formally introduce Justice Sotomayor: *Bienvenidos a todos y gracias por acompañarnos en este momento tan histórico para nosotras. Good evening and welcome everyone. Thank you for joining us today, and for being part of this historic event. The Hispanic Women's Council is a non-profit, all volunteer, inter-generational organization, established in 1988 to promote, support, and create opportunities for Hispanic women. Throughout our history the Council has made a priority of seeking out role models...accomplished women we can learn from, women we can emulate, and women we can celebrate. Today, I am deeply honored for the opportunity to introduce Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. From her humble beginnings - - to her elevation to the high court - - wonderfully captured in her memoir, My Beloved World - - she is the epitome of a role model.* President Sanchez then read the Justice's bio (see page 3) and invited her to the stage.



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President-Elect

Marisa Stanford
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Raqui Martínez
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Stella Noriega

Dr. Diane Torres-Velásquez

The Hispanic Women’s Council is a non-profit, inter-generational, organization established in 1988 to promote, support, and create opportunities for Hispanic women.

Vangie Samora
Newsletter Editor

Hispanic Women’s Council

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After another standing ovation, Justice Sotomayor began her talk by letting the audience know that she would leave the stage and come down into the audience, adding that this makes the U. S. Marshalls nervous and asking everyone “not to stand up as she walks around the room.” In her talk she clarified a connection with Albuquerque. She has been coming here for a long time starting in her undergraduate years. Turns out an Albuquerquean, Dolores Chavez, was her first college roommate. Ms. Chavez was in the audience and Justice Sotomayor asked her to stand. As she continued to wind her way around the room, Justice Sotomayor talked about her passions, values that have served her well and encouraged the audience to get involved with their community and to practice kindness and loyalty. She also answered questions from HWC members that had been submitted for vetting prior to the event. These elicited more insight into her priorities and beliefs and the importance of family.

Many in the audience connected personally with her life story and some were wiping away tears. Because of her choice to be physically close to her audience, every attendee felt her presence at a personal level.

It was a gratifying experience to work on such an historic and once-in-a-lifetime event. We thank the HWC Board of Directors for their support of this ambitious undertaking.



The Event Planning Committee: standing l-r: Dr. Viola Flórez, Vangie Samora, Dr. Merrilee Foreman. Seated: Elsi Samora Sánchez and Raqui Martínez