

# BACK STORY



*Andrea Gandara has been a part of the Las Vegas Latino Bar Association for more than five years and has previously served as its vice president of membership. Gandara currently serves as a director at large. She is one of six directors who are responsible for carrying out the activities of the organization. One of the primary duties of the directors is to reach out and promote the organization's activities.*

Gandara is a graduate of the William S. Boyd School of Law, a former law clerk at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada, and she currently is an attorney at Holley, Driggs, Walch, Fine, Puzey, Stein & Thompson in the firm's bankruptcy and commercial litigation practice groups. She has been recognized by the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and the State Bar of Nevada for her pro bono efforts in the community.

We asked Gandara the following questions about the Latino Bar Association; her responses follow.

## **WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE LATINO BAR ASSOCIATION?**

The mission of the Latino Bar Association is to serve the public interest by cultivating the science of jurisprudence, promoting reform in the law, facilitating the administration of justice, advancing the standing of Latinos in the legal profession, preserving the high standards of professionalism among Latino attorneys, and cooperating with other professional and community organizations in furthering the aforementioned purposes.

## **Meet Andrea Gandara, Director at Large of the Latino Bar Association**

**BY SCOTT G. WASSERMAN, ESQ.**

### **WHAT IS THE COMPOSITION OF THE LATINO BAR ASSOCIATION?**

The Latino Bar Association has six classes of membership:

- General members (people admitted to practice law);
- Government or non-profit members (admitted to practice law and employed by a government agency or non-profit organization);
- Student members (enrolled in law school);
- Honorary members (elected or appointed to a judicial or legislative office);
- Associate members (someone who works in support of those admitted to practice law and under direct attorney supervision); and
- Friend of the LBA (provides professional or ancillary goods or services to attorneys or the legal profession).

### **WHAT ARE REASONS YOU WOULD RECOMMEND AN ATTORNEY CONSIDER JOINING THE LATINO BAR ASSOCIATION?**

Gandara encourages anyone looking to enhance themselves professionally in the legal field, to make friends with new people from many backgrounds and practice areas, or to connect to the local community through public service, to join the Latino Bar Association because the organization promotes all of these goals. Members are given first rights to highly coveted spots in exceptional continuing legal education sessions; are invited to happy hours and dinners with fellow members, members of the judiciary and legislature, and other local bar associations and national organizations; and are encouraged to participate in public service via mentorship and fundraising to support the community.

### **WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL GOAL FOR YOUR YEAR-LONG TERM AS A DIRECTOR AT LARGE?**

Gandara's goal is to sustain and build a community amongst the LBA members and the state bar as a whole. One of her favorite aspects of being an LBA member is the genuine camaraderie and support in the group, both personally and professionally. She is very proud of the growth and momentum the LBA has achieved and is encouraged about its future success to come.

Gandara notes that the LBA, under the leadership of President Marisa Rodriguez (with Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial) has planned a very ambitious year for 2019, which includes:

- Continuing legal education on the topics of diversity in the bar and substance abuse intervention/prevention;
- Community service through sponsorship of John S. Park Elementary School; mentorship of law school, college and high school students in a program called Huellas; and an inaugural 5K scholarship run; and
- Social and networking events between LBA members, the Hispanic National Bar Association and other local diversity bar organizations. **NL**



**SCOTT WASSERMAN** is Emeritus Chief Executive Officer and Special Counsel to the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education. Previously Wasserman served as a deputy attorney general in the Civil Division of the Office of the Attorney General and served the Nevada State Legislature as Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel.