



# CONFERENCE ON DOMINICAN AFFAIRS

*Building Our National Agenda*

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

Saturday, February 11th

9:00AM - 3:30PM Annual Retreat

Room 292

## Board of Directors of the Dominican American National Roundtable

Claribel Martinez-Marmolejos, President  
Nestor Montilla, Sr., Chairman  
Dr. Alejandro Benjamin, Sr. Vice President  
Dr. Miguel Hernandez, MD, Vice President  
Raul Acosta, Connecticut  
Prof. Jose Aleman, Rhode Island  
Tony Barros, Boston, Massachusetts  
Rev. Alvin Bridgewater, Upstate New York  
Ernie Dominguez, Esq., Maryland  
Fiordaliza Frias, Florida  
Heidy Hernandez, New Jersey

Antonio Martinez, Esq., New York  
Ana Medina, Lawrence, Massachusetts  
Dr. Maria Teresa Montilla  
Dan-el Padilla, Ph.D., New York  
Francesca Peña, Dominican Republic  
Janna Rodriguez, Youth National President  
Augusto Suarez, Youth Vice President  
America Schroh-Tavarez, Florida  
Seny Taveras, Esq., New York  
Nestor Guárien Taveras-Sepulveda, Puerto Rico  
Franklin Ventura, Youth Vice President

## 11:30AM 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  
Jose Cruz, New York  
Juana Edmond, New Jersey  
Peter Fontanes, New York  
Leodany Inojosa, Puerto Rico  
Santiago Matias, Massachusetts

Johanny Mendez, New Jersey  
Sarita Montilla, Pennsylvania  
Belkis Peña, Rhode Island  
Ana Perdomo, Massachusetts  
Hector Ramirez, Bronx, New York  
Mildred E. Rojas Disla, New Jersey  
Delfin Vasquez, Pennsylvania  
Ing. Francisco "Pachin" Ramirez, Advisor

1:00PM Presentation by Florinda Rojas, Executive Director, Instituto Nacional de Migracion, Dominican Republic

2:30PM Signing of Collaboration Agreement between DANR & Asociacion Medica Dominicana

4:00PM - 6:00PM ILS Faith-Based Initiative

Herbert M. Ellend Atrium

### *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 como debe hacerse?*

*Moderator:* Néstor Montilla, Sr. *Recorder:* Rev. Juan Rosario *Facilitator:* Rev. Fernando Plaza

*Panelists:* Dr. Alberto Correa, Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico  
Rev. Alvin Bridgewater, Dominican American National Roundtable (DANR)  
Rev. Jose Lopez, Latino Leadership Alliance of NJ (LLANJ)  
Rev. Alejandro Benjamin, Obispo, Iglesia Roca de Salvación  
Rev. Fabio Sosa, Latino Pastors Association of Paterson (LPAP)  
Councilman Angel Fuentes, Hispanic Leadership Association of New Jersey (HLA)  
Dr. Maria Teresa Montilla, Institute for Latino Studies, (ILS)

**Sunday, February 12th**

**9:00AM - 10:45AM 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

**11:00AM - 1:00PM 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 que fueron tantas mujeres elegidas este año? ¿Cómo podemos continuar esta ola?*

*Moderator:* Manny Martínez      *Recorder:* Elvin Dominicci      *Facilitator:* Edwin Matias

*Panelists:* Legisladora Claribel Martinez-Marmolejos, Puerto Rico  
Senator Ana Quezada, Rhode Island  
Senator Nilsa Cruz-Pérez, New Jersey  
Assemblywoman Juana Matias, Massachusetts  
State Representative Grace Diaz, Rhode Island  
State Representative Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Maryland  
Former Comm. Fior D’Aliza Frías, Florida  
State Representative Daisy Baez, Florida

**Program subject to change.**

**11:00AM - 1:00PM 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 educación y negocios son una combinación explosiva?*

**Moderator:** Maria Isabel Alarcon **Recorder:** Joannie Morales **Facilitator:** Carlos Salinas  
**Coordinators:** Ibanox Taveras, Augusto Suarez and Franklin Ventura  
**Panelists:** Mayor Dan Rivera, Lawrence, MA, DANR Youth President Janna Rodríguez, John Estévez, Foodtown, Raúl Acosta, Oro Solido & Ernie Dominguez, Esq.

**11:00AM - 1:00PM Health Professionals Initiative: For community advancement /  
Iniciativa de Profesionales de la Salud para el avance comunitario**

**Room 080**

**Moderators:** Dr. Miguel Hernández & Dr. Aritmedes Restituyo  
**Recorder:** Sebastian Rodríguez **Facilitator:** Cathy Polanco  
**Panelists:** To be announced

**11:00 AM - 1:00PM National Dominican American Council Plenary Meeting  
Concejo Nacional Dominicano Americano: Capacitando para Apoderamiento**

**Room 090**

**Coordinator:** Chairman Nestor Montilla, Sr.  
**Facilitator:** Juana Edmond **Reporter:** Miriam Younan  
**Participants:** NDAC member delegations from New York, New Jersey, Florida, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Puerto Rico, Maryland, and Connecticut.  
Guests: Marcos Devers, Ana Marchena, Ph.D. and members of NDAC Board of Directors of Puerto Rico, Professor Jose Aleman, Yohanny Mendez

**1:00PM - 2:00PM 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.  
Mayor Dan Rivera, Lawrence, MA  
Senator Ana Quezada, RI  
State Representative Grace Díaz, RI  
State Representative Joseline Peña-Melnyk, MD  
State Representative Daisy Baez, FL  
Councilman Alex Mendez, Paterson, NJ

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

\*\*\*\*

The Conference on Dominican Affairs (CODA) is made possible thanks to the generous support of UNIVISION and PSE&G, and the collaboration of The Dominican American National Roundtable, Leadership Alliance of New Jersey, and the National Dominican American Council. CODA is a signature project of the Institute for Latino Studies Research and Development (ILS). [www.instituteforlatinostudies.com](http://www.instituteforlatinostudies.com). [thelatinoinstitute@gmail.com](mailto:thelatinoinstitute@gmail.com)

**Program subject to change.**