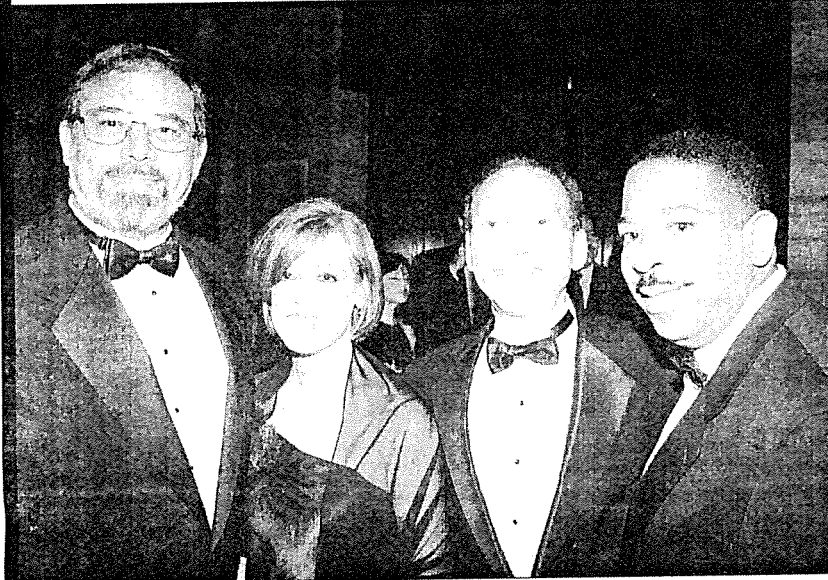


# After Hours

Eugenio Hernandez was installed as president of the Cuban American Bar Association at a dinner Jan. 24 at the Hotel Inter-Continental Miami.



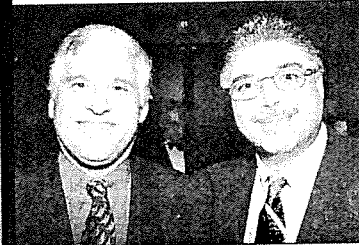
From left, 3rd District Court of Appeal Judge Rodolfo Sorondo Jr.; Kim Sorondo; and Circuit Judges Marc Schumacher and Daryl E. Trawick.



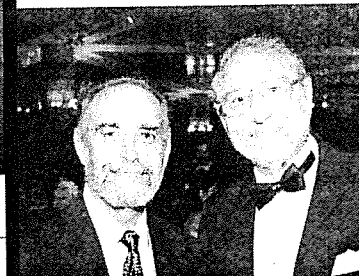
From left, assistant state attorney John Schlesinger; Marilyn Milian, of 'The People's Court' television program; Beatrice Morales; and lawyer Manuel R. Morales, a Miami solo practitioner.



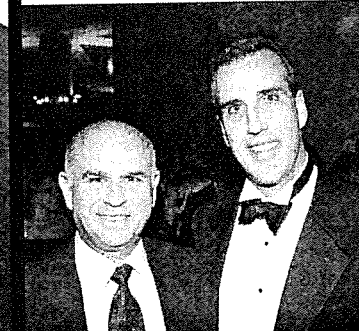
Eugenio Hernandez, left, a partner in the Miami office of Holland & Knight, is sworn in as president of the Cuban American Bar Association by 3rd District Court of Appeal Judge Mario Goderich.



U.S. District Judge Federico A. Moreno and Circuit Judge Roberto M. Pineiro.



Circuit Judges Jon I. Gordon, left, and Stuart M. Simons.



Circuit Judges Michael A. Genden, left, and Alex Ferrer.



# CUBAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

## A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

701 BRICKELL AVENUE, SUITE 3000  
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33131  
TELEPHONE: (305) 374-8500  
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**EUGENIO HERNANDEZ**  
PRESIDENT

July 9, 2002

**VICTOR M. DIAZ, JR.**  
PRESIDENT-ELECT

**RAMON A. ABADIN**  
VICE PRESIDENT

Governor Jeb Bush  
Governor of the State of Florida  
The Capitol, Room 209  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

**JORGE A. MESTRE**  
VICE PRESIDENT

Re: Appointment to the Florida Supreme  
Court of Raoul Cantero

**LUIS E. SUAREZ**  
SECRETARY

**MANUEL GARCIA-LINARES**  
TREASURER

Dear Governor Bush:

**ANTONIO CASTRO**

**ENA T. DIAZ**

**ARALY HERRERA**

**ADOLFO E. JIMENEZ**

**RICHARD KUPER**

**SERGIO L. MENDEZ**

**JOSE A. ORTIZ**

**ROLANDO SANCHEZ-MEDINA. Jr.**

**MICHAEL DIAZ, JR.**  
PAST PRESIDENT


We are writing on behalf of our entire membership to urge you to seize the historic opportunity to appoint the first Hispanic-American to the Florida Supreme Court. Since your election as our Governor, you have demonstrated great sensitivity to the diversity of our State's population in your appointments to our State's trial courts. In filling the current vacancy on our Supreme Court, you can extend this commitment to our State's highest court. Your ability to do so is aided by the fact that you have been offered an eminently well qualified and outstanding Hispanic American lawyer as a candidate for appointment.

**Raoul Cantero** is one our State's finest appellate lawyers. More importantly, he is universally respected for his collegiality and professionalism. Raoul is known not only as an extremely competent and skilled appellate advocate, but also as a person whose word can be trusted, who always treats his opposing counsel and the Court with dignity and respect and whose behavior exemplifies the highest standards of our profession.

Outside of the court room, Raoul is known as a dedicated husband and father and a quiet man of deep faith, principal and conviction. The son of Cuban immigrants, Raoul's dedication and hard work has taken him from Miami-Dade County to the halls of one of this country's finest law school and on to the heights of his chosen profession. Raoul's success is not only a source of pride for the entire Cuban American community, but also exemplifies the greatness of this nation and the continued promise of the American dream.

We urge you to appoint **Raoul Cantero** to the Florida Supreme Court and thank you for your continued commitment to excellence and diversity in judicial appointments and for your unselfish service to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eugenio Hernandez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eugenio Hernandez, Esq.  
as President and on Behalf of the  
Board of Directors

cc Charles Canady, Esq.  
Office of the Governor  
State of Florida  
Legal Affairs  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

MIA1 #1144660 v1

LAW OFFICES OF  
**OSVALDO N. SOTO**  
UNION PLANTERS BANK BUILDING, SUITE 310  
2151 SOUTH LEJEUNE ROAD  
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33134

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Iris Escarrá, Esq.  
Elizabeth De Armas, Esq.

Telephone (305) 567-0010  
Facsimile (305) 567-0799  
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January 30, 2001

**VIA FACSIMILE**

To: Board of Directors  
CUBAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

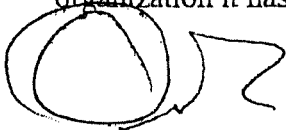
From: Oswaldo N. Soto, Esq.

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I want to thank all of you for the Special Award.

You can not imagine what this means to me. I was shocked when Gene started to speak and mentioned Guantanamo.

May God bless all of you and keep the Cuban American Bar Association as the wonderful organization it has been. I am sure you will do it.



Oswaldo N. Soto, Esq.

ONS/psm

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**OF THE CUBAN AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION**

On October 13, 2004, the following directors of the Cuban American Bar Foundation met:

Victor M. Diaz, Jr., Ray Abadin, Gene Hernandez. Subsequent consent was obtained from Tony Castro, Esq.

Motion by Ray Abadin to establish \$30,000 endowed scholarships at FIU and the University of Florida this year, funds permitting, with the goal of establishing similar endowed scholarships at each of the public law schools in the State of Florida as additional funds are obtained by the Foundation. Motion seconded by Gene Hernandez, Motion adopted 4-0.

# CABA BRIEFS



CUBAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION  
ISSUE #9 VOLUME 1

JUNE 2002

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Roland Sanchez-Medina Jr.

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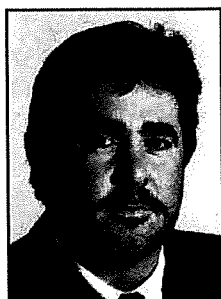
## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Michael Diaz, Jr.

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[WWW.CABAONLINE.COM](http://WWW.CABAONLINE.COM)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Eugenio Hernandez



I am truly honored and humbled to be president of the Cuban American Bar Association. Our organization has a long tradition of leadership and service to the community. My hope is that 12 months from now, we can look back and be proud of all that we have accomplished as an organization.

We at CABA have truly come a long way from our humble beginnings. If you look back to 1974 when we first started at the time many of our members were struggling to be recognized as attorneys in the U.S. Many had practiced in Cuba for years and had to start all over to re-establish themselves in the U.S. Through hard work and great personal sacrifice

many are today successful attorneys and leaders in our community.

Today CABA members are not only successful attorneys but many are leaders in prestigious law firms. Three of the major firms in South Florida are led by CABA members. They are Luis Perez at Akerman, Cesar Alvarez at Greenberg and Peter Prieto at Holland and Knight. Please note that these firms are mentioned in alphabetical order, I would not want my friends at Akerman or Greenberg to accuse me of playing favorites. Today we have CABA members who serve as city attorneys-in the City of Miami, my friend Alex Vilarello, the City of Coral Gables, my wife Elizabeth Hernandez and in West Miami Jose Villalobos. Our members also serve as judges in circuit and county court, the court of appeals and the federal courts. I see the day in the near future when we will also be in the Supreme Court of the

Continued on page 2

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28 YEARS OF CUBAN AMERICAN ADVOCACY

Continued from page 1

State of Florida and one day, and why not I ask? — one of our members will serve in the Supreme Court of this great nation which we as immigrants are so blessed to be part of.

We at CABA have truly come a long way. But this does not in any way mean that our work is done. On the contrary — there is still a lot that needs to be done and places to go. We at CABA must remain at the forefront of issues affecting our profession and community. Some of these issues are controversial ones. Issues such as immigration, judicial reform, and diversity in our courts, in our firms and society as a whole.

I believe that law firms need to be committed not only to the recruitment, but also to the retention and promotion of minority attorneys. Many of us use the term “diversity” not necessarily to refer only to minorities, be they Cuban-Americans, African-Americans, Asians or women. Diversity, I believe, is also about a state of mind. It is about the person who sits as a leader in a law firm or in a courtroom as a judge and sees everyone equal before their eyes. This is the type of person that we should seek out and support and the kind of person our community truly needs.

I want to introduce a number of people that are very important in my life and who without them, I would not be here tonight. First, I would like you to meet my parents Eugenio and Aida Hernandez. With your permission, I would like to say a few words in Spanish to them. *Mi querido padre y madre, esta noche delante de muchos de mis amigos y colegas les quiero dar las gracias por todo lo que ustedes han hecho por mi. Por todo sus sacrificios y determinacion que me ha permitido a mi llegar a hacer la persona que soy hoy. Gracias por todo, los quiero mucho.*

There is saying that one should not judge a person by their wealth, or how powerful they have become, but rather by what their children have become

in life. I think that we can safely say that our parent’s generation has a lot to be proud of. I only hope and pray that our generation does as well with our children, as they have done with theirs. I have been blessed not only with wonderful parents but a wonderful partner in life, my wife, Liz Hernandez. This June we’ll be celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. As judge Marilyn Milian would say, “que aguante”. At this time it is my duty to confess the real reason I wanted to be CABA president. Since she became City Attorney of Coral Gables I acquired a new name and I’m often introduced as the husband of the city attorney. There’s a saying in Spanish about this, “un zero a la izquierda”. I respectfully request that from now on I be referred to as the president of CABA or Mr. President. My wife on the other hand, has agreed to be known as the first lady or the wife of the president. In light of the fact that she has referred to this event as my coronation, you may also feel free to introduce her as queen Elizabeth- some of you may have already seen her practicing her royal wave. Liz and I have been blessed with two wonderful sons, our pride and joy - Gene who is 17 and Danny who is 12. Two more Belen boys.

Finally, there is someone here tonight that I strongly feel should be recognized for his many years of service not only to CABA but our community as a whole. I’ll never forget the week I spent with him in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as part of the team [Committee for Liberation of Guantanamo Detainees] that represented detainees being held at the base during our efforts to gain their release from detention. This is someone who has always had the best interests of CABA in his heart and a person that we will surely miss on our board. At this time, I would like to ask his daughter, the Honorable Berti Soto to please join me as we recognize her father, Osvaldo Soto for his many years of service to CABA. Osvaldo, I know that you will always to be there for us whenever called upon to help. Please join me in thanking him as we present him with this small token of our appreciation.

# CABA BRIEFS

CUBAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2003



[www.cabaonline.com](http://www.cabaonline.com)