

2012 IMMIGRATION SUMMIT

Speaker Bios

Beto Cardenas:

Beto focuses his practice on legislative matters at a state and federal level. His public policy efforts consist of serving as counsel to business interests affected by America's immigration laws and corporate and academic clientele seeking resolution on statutory and regulatory issues. He has extensive experience in working with clients to draft legislative solutions addressing diverse matters.

During the 109th and 110th Congress, Beto served as general counsel to the senior United States Senator from Texas, the Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, advising her on judicial appointments, legal affairs, and legislative matters. Prior to joining Senator Hutchison's senior staff, Beto was employed by the Texas Tech University System as the Special Assistant to the Chancellor and Director of Federal Relations. In his capacity with Texas Tech, Beto coordinated federal research initiatives and served as a liaison with members of Congress, executive agencies, respective campus administrators, and the System's Board of Regents.

Larry Kellner:

Larry Kellner is president of Emerald Creek Group, a private equity firm based in Houston.

From December 2004 through December 2009, Kellner was the chairman and chief executive officer of Continental Airlines. Kellner joined the airline in 1995 as chief financial officer. In May 2001, he was elected president of the airline and to the Board of Directors, and in March 2003, he was named president and chief operating officer. Prior to joining Continental, Kellner was executive vice president and chief financial officer of American Savings Bank, owned by The Robert M. Bass Group. Prior to that, he was executive vice president and chief financial officer of The Koll Company, a private real estate investment and construction firm. He started his career at Ernst & Whinney (now Ernst & Young).

Kellner serves on the board of directors for The Boeing Company, Marriott International and The Chubb Corporation. In addition, he is active in numerous community and civic organizations. He is chairman of the Greater Houston Partnership and serves on the Rice University Board of Trustees. He is a member of the board of directors for the Methodist Hospital, YMCA of Greater Houston, the Spring Branch Education Foundation and is a member of both the Boy Scouts of America National Executive Board and the Sam Houston Area Council Board.

David S. Lopez:

David S. Lopez, FACHE, is President and CEO of the Harris County Hospital District in 2004, the fifth largest metropolitan public healthcare system in the nation. He is a respected community leader with extensive administrative healthcare experience.

Since assuming his duties as President and CEO, Mr. Lopez has led many initiatives to strengthen the fiscal health of the Harris County Hospital District and improve the health of the community. His goal is to create strategic initiatives which will ensure that the Harris County Hospital District operates in an effective and efficient manner thus improving patient access to primary and specialty care.

The Harris County Hospital District serves more than a million patient visits annually through its network of three hospitals, 12 neighborhood health centers, 13 homeless shelter clinics, six school-based clinics and four mobile health units.

Deacon Joe Rubio:

Deacon Rubio is Vice-president of Community Relations and Advocacy for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. He is also active at the local, state and national levels in organizations that promote social justice and programs for children, the poor and the disadvantaged. Before assuming his present post with Catholic Charities in 2001, Deacon Rubio served for five years as Vice-President of Development for Neighborhood Centers Inc., a century-old agency serving low-income residents of Houston, Harris County and 12 surrounding counties of Southeast Texas. He came to NCI from White Plains, New York, where he held the position of National Director of Chapter Program Services for the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation.

Rubio was ordained a Permanent Deacon in the Catholic Church in 2003 after completing a course of study at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston. He is on the staff of St. Bernadette Catholic Church, Houston.

Juliet K. Stipeche:

Juliet was born and raised in Houston, Texas and is the daughter of immigrant parents from Argentina and Mexico. She grew up in the diverse East End of Houston where she continues to reside today. In 1992, Juliet graduated valedictorian of the High School for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice and earned an academic scholarship to Rice University. Juliet then attended The University of Texas School of Law.

Today Ms. Stipeche is a shareholder at Nagorny & Stipeche, P.C., which is a certified minority-owned and operated business. Juliet's lifelong commitment to service, justice, and quality public education motivated her to run for the Houston Independent School District's Board of Education. She was elected as the HISD Trustee of District VIII on November 30, 2010 in a special election to complete an unexpired term by only 44 votes. In a short period of time, she proved to be a strong, engaged, and dedicated Board member. On November 8, 2011, Juliet was re-elected by her community to serve a four-year term by a commanding margin. Juliet passionately believes that public education is a human right, is the great social equalizer, and is the foundation of a prosperous community. While she continues to serve as an advocate for her clients in the courtroom, Juliet also serves as a voice for the children, the community, and HISD's employees on the Board of Education.