

La ^{de} Voz **Hays** County

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People in the News



Hernandez Named Director of Latino Initiatives at Univ. of Houston - Victoria

Macarena Hernandez has joined the faculty of the **University of Houston-Victoria** as a communications instructor and was also recently named Director of Latino Initiatives.

As an award-winning journalist who previously worked for the **Dallas Morning News** and the **San Antonio Express News**, **Ms. Hernandez** covered immigration and education issues in the Latino community.

Most recently she was an **International Reporting Project Fellow** at **Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies** in **Washington, D.C.** While there in the fall, she produced a documentary about Mexican immigration laws scheduled to air this spring on **PBS/Frontline World**.

"Victoria is an ideal location," 34-year-old **Hernández** said. "It combines the new migration with the old settlement. Working here will inform my work about immigration and will allow me to work with the kind of students I grew up with along the border."

A child of immigrants, **Hernández** was born in **Roma** and raised in **La Joya**. She became interested in journalism as a student at **Baylor University**, where she received her bachelor's degree in 1996 as a double major in English professional writing and journalism. She went on to receive her master's degree in journalism with an emphasis in documentary filmmaking in 1998 from the **University of California at Berkeley**.



Veronica Rivera Elected Vice-Chair of ACC Board

Veronica Rivera was elected Vice Chair of the **Austin Community College Board of Trustees** at its June 1st meeting in **Austin, Texas**. She was first elected to the Board in 2004.

Ms. Rivera is an attorney with **Akers and Boulware-Wells** and was a former teacher and has worked in the Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division. She is a co-founder of **Las Comadres**, a network for Hispanic women.

She is a graduate of **Leadership Austin** and the **Hispanic Austin Leadership Program**. Originally from **San Antonio, Texas** **Ms. Rivera** graduated from **St. Mary's University** with a bachelors degree in political science. She earned her master's degree in business from **Texas State University in San Marcos** and her law degree from **The University of Texas School of Law** in 1998.



Carlos Lopez Named District Engineer for TxDot in Texas

Carlos Lopez, a long time employee of the **Texas Department of Transportation**, (**TxDOT**) will be the new district engineer for the 11-county Austin district. Lopez, 48, will be in charge of about 600 workers at the district.

District engineers at **TxDOT** traditionally wield considerable influence, acting as the liaison between city and county officeholders interested in getting road projects done, and the statewide **TxDOT** officials in charge of the money.

Lopez is a **Laredo** native and a 1982 graduate of **The University of Texas** in civil engineering. He also got his master's of engineering from **UT** in 1989. He and his wife **Zulema** will celebrate their 26th anniversary this week. They have two daughters, both of them attending **UT**, and a grandson.



Gilberto Reyes New Marketing Director for Hohner

Gilberto Reyes of **Reyes Accordions** has been named the North American Representative for **Hohner Accordions**.

The company, which is based in **Trossingen, Germany** is a major producer of accordions and always present at the **Guadalupe Cultural Art Center's annual Tejano Conjunto Festival**.

Reyes, who is originally from **Texas** but is now based in **Sacramento, California** has been a long time promoter of **Conjunto Music** and hopes to spread the interest in the accordion in his new position with **Hohner**.



Chahin Named Advisor to Wal Mart Minority Student Success Project

Jaime Chahin, Dean of the College of Applied Arts at **Texas State University-San Marcos**, has been named an advisor to the **Wal Mart Minority Student Success Project** by the **Institute of Higher Education Policy in Washington**.

The project will fund **Hispanic Serving Institutions** that have submitted proposals to address student success issues for first-generation students. Institutions selected are funded for three years by the **Wal Mart Foundation**. Institutional collaboration on issues related to first-generation students and the role of faculty and students is the focus of the project.

Dr. Chahin is originally from **Eagle Pass, Texas** and earned his Ph.D from the **University of Michigan** in 1977. He has been a Dean at **Texas State University** for the past 16 years. Next month **Sage Publications** will release his new book: **Handbook of U.S. Latino Psychology**.



Dr. Miguel A. Guajardo Promoted and Awarded Tenure

Miguel A. Guajardo, an Assistant Professor in the Education and Community Leadership Program at **Texas State University-San Marcos**, was recently notified that he has been promoted to Associate Professor and awarded tenure.

His research interests include issues of community building, community youth development, organic leadership development, race and ethnicity, the change process, and university and community partnerships.

He was a Fellow with the **Kellogg International Leadership Program** and the **Salzburg Seminar**. He is also a co-founder and the chairman of the board of directors of the **Llano Grande Center for Research and Development in South Texas**.

Dr. Guajardo earned a Ph.D. in educational leadership with an emphasis on the politics and policy of education from the **University of Texas at Austin**.



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Pensamientos para junio

Editorial

Muy buenos dias if you are reading this newspaper in the morning y muy buenas tardes if you are reading this paper in the afternoon.

De cualquier manera, I believe that once again you will find in La Voz de Hays County a publication that is filled with interesting and useful information about La Raza in **Central Texas**.

Para empezar, I want to call to your attention **Sonia Sotomayor** who appears on our cover this month. Her nomination by **President Barack Obama** represents a major milestone for Hispanics across the country. As you will learn from reading her story in **TIME Magazine** or on pages 8 and 9 of this newspaper, her journey is indeed a remarkable one.

The second item I want to call to your attention are the stories on **Nathaniel Sanders III** which appear on pages 6 and 7. **Vince Tovar** and **Alex Canepa** both local writers in Austin, provide a person account of how they are bearing witnesses to senseless tragedies that continue to take place in **Austin, Texas**. For many people, the death of another young man may seem like a combination of someone who was in the wrong place at the wrong time and made the wrong move, but it is my sense that there is more this incident that we the public know at the present time. I for one look forward to learning why the dashboard cameras continue to malfunction in Austin Police Department cars.

Cambiando de temas, queremos reconocer a dos individuos de **Texas State University**. El primero es del **Dr. Jaime Chahin**, who was recently named an advisor to the **Wal Mart Minority Student Success Project** by the Institute of Higher Education Policy in Washington, D.C.

The other individual is **Dr. Miguel Guajardo**, who is now an Associate Professor in Education and Community Leadership at **Texas State University**. **Dr. Guajardo** was also granted tenure.



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor & Publisher

COMO SOLICITAR LA RESIDENCIA SI USTED HA SIDO VICTIMA DE ABUSO O VIOLENCIA:

○ Es usted una persona sin documentos, y:

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- Si su esposo/a no es Residente o Ciudadano, ¿Es usted victima del abuso físico o sexual por parte de su pareja, esposo, u otro miembro de su familia y ha llamado a la policía para reportar la violencia?

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San Marcos Plans Juneteenth Festivities

San Marcos community organizations will celebrate Juneteenth June 19-21 with barbecue and cobbler cook-offs, games for all ages, music, parade, car and talent shows, and history banquet to commemorate the 144th anniversary of the day that Texas slaves learned they were free in 1865.

"We invite all San Marcos citizens to celebrate Juneteenth at the festivities taking place Friday, June 19 through Sunday, June 21," said **City Council Member Chris Jones**. Jones has created a web site at www.juneteenthsanmarcos.com where participants can sign up for the parade, talent show, car show and cook-off competitions.

"You can download registration forms for various events on the website," Jones said. "This is a great opportunity to celebrate a holiday that finds its origin deeply rooted in Texas history."

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

Essentially a historic event, Juneteenth's roots are traced back to June of 1865 when, two and a half years after the issuance of the **Emancipation Proclamation**, Union Troops arrived in **Galveston**, Texas announcing and enforcing the proclamation's provisions. From its **Galveston**, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the **African American Emancipation Day** has spread across the United States and beyond.

Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a weekend marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in **America**. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in American history that shaped and continues to influence our society today.

"June 19th—which was quickly shortened to "Juneteenth" among celebrants—has become the African-American addendum to the nation's Independence Day," Jones said. "As Juneteenth jubilees remind us, the Emancipation Proclamation did not bring about emancipation. The Texas Juneteenth celebration is the nation's oldest and most significant commemoration of the final freeing of the slaves."

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When Classes End, SMCISD Summer Feeding Programs Begin

By: Iris Campbell, Public Information Officer

Summer should be a break from study, not good nutrition, according to San Marcos CISD Associate Director of Child Nutrition Mike Boone. Thanks to two programs—the Summer Food Service Program and the Seamless Summer Program—nutritious meals during the summer are available at no cost to all children aged 18 and under.

To participate, children may simply show up at any participating program feeding sites **Monday through Friday, June 8 – August 13**. Local feeding sites are as follows:

- **De Zavala Elementary School, 7:30-8:30 am for breakfast; 11 am – 1pm for lunch.**
- **San Marcos High School, 7:30-8:30 am for breakfast, 11 am – 1 pm for lunch.**

For more information about participating sites and times, call the 2-1-1 Texas information line and select the "local community services and resources" option. Ask the information specialist about the Summer Food Service Program or Seamless Summer Program in your area. Help your kids get the nutrition they need this summer to be successful in the next school year.

One can also visit www.squaremeals.org or call (888) TEX-KIDS for school meal program details, healthy recipes and more. Square Meals is the Texas Department of Agriculture's school nutrition education and outreach program, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service.

You can also reach the SMCISD Child Nutrition Department by calling 393-6940.

Summer school set for Hays CISD

Elementary summer school (grades 2 through 5) begins June 8 and will be Monday through Friday through July 2 at Hemphill and Science Hall elementary schools. Transportation and free breakfast and lunch will be provided for all students. Hours will be from 7:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Paige Collier, assistant principal of Hemphill Elementary School, will be the 2009 summer school principal.

Middle school summer school will be Monday through Friday, June 8 through July 2, at Chapa Middle School. Hours are 7:50 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. Students currently in grades 6, 7, and 8 with an academic need will be referred for summer school from their home campus. Transportation and free breakfast and lunch will be provided for all students. John Salmeron, assistant principal of Barton Middle School, will be the 2009 summer school principal.

Lehman High School (LHS) will be the site for summer school for any Hays CISD 9th-12th grader. School will be Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to noon. Transportation and free breakfast and lunch will be provided for all students. Robert Hensarling, assistant principal of Hays High School, will be the 2009 summer school principal.

TAKS Review Summer School, for students who have not met the standard on the exit level exam, will be June 8 through July 10, with no class on July 3. Tuition is free. TAKS summer testing dates are July 14, 15, 16 and 17.

Recovery Summer School, where high school students may "recover" credits, includes the four "core" subjects of English, science, social studies and math, as well as Spanish, health, foundations of fitness, communications and BCIS (business). Class will be June 8 through July 2 for all courses except BCIS, which will be until July 10 (no school on July 3).

Pride Graduation

Thirty-two students of PRIDE High School graduated Wednesday morning, June 3, in a ceremony held at the San Marcos High School auditorium. Six students were honored from having received a \$2,000 scholarship from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for graduating a year early: Ashli Nicole Hanson, Andrew H. Schroeder, Amanda Leigh Brown, Kimberly Solis, Jessica Marie Mendoza, and Amanda Marie Solis. (Photo by Iris Campbell)

Top Row 6: Andrew Schroeder, Christopher Tyrone, Lucas Obst and Johnny Olmos

Row 5: Juan Roano, Anthony Garcia, Robert Gutierrez and Jimmy Riojas

Row 4: Gavino Romero, Ernesto Hurtado and Jose Garcia

Row 3: Amanda Brown, Jessica Mendoza, Valerie Burns, and Daniel Torres

Row 2: Ashli Hanson, Priscila Casillas and Mariah Flores Bottom Row 1: Allison Baker, Brittany Martinez, Kimberly Solis and Amanda Solis

Insert: Alexander Salgado

Not Shown: Emma Guli, Samantha De Los Santos, Jessica Greer, Delon Poulson, William Scott, Luis Tamez, James Morgan, Luis Juarez, and Hannah Stier



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Newsweek Lists San Marcos High School in Top 1,500 U.S. High Schools:

Newsweek released its annual list of the top 1,500 U.S. high schools on June 9, 2009, and **San Marcos High School** was included for the fifth year in a row. This year, SMHS came in at spot # 1,061 of the "Top of the Class" public high schools.

Jay Mathews of **Newsweek** annually ranks the nations public high schools according to a ratio he devised that takes the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and/or Cambridge tests taken by all students at a school in 2008 and divides by the number of graduating seniors. According to **Mathews** on the **Newsweek** web site, "All of the schools on the list have an index of at least 1,000; they are in the top 6 percent of public schools measured this way."

The Lonely Death of Nathaniel

Alejandro F. Canepa

Early on the morning of May 11, 18-year-old **Nathaniel Sanders** was sleeping peacefully in the back seat of a gold **Mercedes Benz**, a .25 caliber **Glock** tucked into his belt.

At 5:35 am **Austin** police officer **Leonardo Quintana**, responding to numerous complaints made by neighbors that three young men had been firing guns from a gold **Mercedes Benz**, tapped his flashlight against the window of the car. Upon seeing **Sanders'** weapon, **Quintana** drew his pistol and ordered the young man out of the car. Instead of complying, **Sanders** reached for his gun, upon which he was fatally shot in the chest.

In the wake of **Sanders'** death, local papers ran stories describing a "promising young man" whose life, derailed by a few bad choices, ended all too soon. Community members and those close to **Nathaniel** (Nate) demanded an investigation into what they believe to be an unlawful and perhaps racially motivated death at the hands of the **Austin Police Department** (APD).

APD has responded by launching an investigation into the incident and other incidents of a "culturally sensitive nature."

This narrative is all too common. Indeed I have heard this story so many times that I am overcome by the frustrating and sickening feeling that all of the eulogies, community meetings, internal investigations and soul searching will not lead us any closer to understanding why **Nathaniel Sanders** II is no longer with us.

I knew **Nate Sanders**, although perhaps not by name. We went to **Fulmore Middle School** together. His was a face one saw a few times a year at the basketball court or the checkout line at **HEB**. A face familiar and trusted enough for a passing smile and a handshake.

"How ya been?"

"Good, you?"

"OK man, see ya around."

Our intimacy was close enough that his death caused shock and sadness, if not inconsolable grief, in my circle of close friends. "Damn. We knew that guy" seemed to be the mantra of gradual acceptance in the days following his death.

The circumstances surrounding his death were also of considerable significance to my friends and me. Although it sends shivers down my spine to speak ill of the departed, especially when they were acquaintances, **Nate's** transgressions cannot go unnoted.

Nate wasn't simply a young man making a few forgivable youthful blunders. At the time of his death he was facing multiple felony

c o u n t s
stemming
from five
separate run-
ins with
police, all
s i n c e
December –
including one
incident in
which he
sped the
wrong way
down a one-
way street

toward a police barricade. In the car with him on that May morning we're baggies filled with crack cocaine, a loaded semi-automatic pistol and marijuana; seemingly the only things not in his car were a driver's license or vehicle registration. This was his second weapons violation in as many months.

Three days before his death he had neglected to appear in court for a scheduled hearing on the first weapons charge, effectively making him a wanted man. Two days before he was killed he was arrested for mugging a man at an ATM on Sixth Street.

Despite all of the recent accolades he has received from family, friends and community members, **Nate** was making some *REALLY* bad decisions. The kind of decisions that reflect a complete lack of guidance, either internal or external.



Perhaps this is the most troubling part of this tragedy, and the part begging the questions. What was a "good young man" doing in a gold **Mercedes Benz** at 5:30 in the morning with a loaded semi-automatic weapon and a pistol tucked into his pants?

This is most troubling to my friends and I who are demographically similar to **Nate**. I am Hispanic, many of my friends African-American. Some are from the wrong side of the tracks, some from the right. We listen to the same music as **Nate**, play the same video games and shoot hoops at the same parks. I write this sentence from my bedroom, not ¼ of a mile from where **Nate** was shot. How is it then that my life and the lives of my friends took such a different course from **Nate's**?

Why is it that being shot by the police never crosses our minds?

Why is it that pulling guns on cops and mugging people seems like a bad idea to us, but not to **Nate**?

I cannot answer this question and may never be able to.

However, shortly after **Nate's** shooting, one of my friends did offer this response. "He got too deep in the game."

For those unfamiliar with street slang or who do not know anyone under the age of 30, "*The Game*" is a flexible, amorphous, all-encompassing term that describes life in the hood. The kind of nihilistic existence extolled in popular culture (rap) which glorifies crime as a means of subsistence, espouses a medieval code of honor killings, and perhaps most importantly demands a disdain for laws – those who abide by them (you and me) and those who enforce them (Officer Quintana).

To a certain extent all young people accept and have a guilty curiosity about *the game*. It has a taboo reputation and intoxicating allure. Most young people, however, also realize that the game is, for lack of a better word, stupid. My game-related activities end with buying **Lil Wayne's** latest album.

But **Nate** made *the game* his reality.

I've been to too many funerals in my short life. Some in elegant churches in **Westlake**

Hills where the dress code calls for black ties somberly wrapped around **Brooks Brothers** shirts. I've also been to memorials, held in modest buildings and homes, where those gathered to pay their last respects wear what they came home from a hard days work in and did not have time to change out of, or what they could afford from the **Salvation Army**. There is nothing wrong with this. When heads are bowed and eyes are closed it doesn't really matter what you are wearing as long as the song in you're heart is sung for the right reason.

Nate's memorial was different. Some mourners, mainly **Nate's** peers, wore shirts emblazoned with slogans such as "*Fuck Laws*," or "*Fuck the Police*." One especially apt shirt read "Hood life to the good life" above a picture of a sneering "Lil Nate" clutching a fistful of money. Perhaps I am a hopeless sentimentalist, but "*Fuck the police and get money*" hardly seem the proper tone to strike at a somber memorial service for a life lost all too soon.

Saddest of all, however, was the reaction of the older mourners. Complete resignation.

If **Nate's** parents, or any of the other adults, wanted **Nate's** memorial service to be anything other than a gangster wake, they did not make their wishes known. All of those 50- and 60- something couples, many of whom I suppose knew **Nate** as a happy, kind, exuberant child, kept mum throughout the proceedings. Resigned to the fact that this funeral was not for **Nathaniel Sanders**, but for **Lil Nate**, lost to *the game* at age 18.

This, I believe, is the problem. This acceptance. This mute acknowledgement that this is the way, has always been the way, will always be the way.

But it didn't have to be this way. **Nate** didn't have to be in that gold **Mercedes Benz** at 5:30 in the morning. **Nate** didn't have to drop out of school or sell drugs. He did it because of his environment. He did it because he could. He did it because no one he trusted told him to do otherwise.

I wasn't there that May morning when **Nate Sanders** life ended. I don't know whether **Officer Quintana** acted according to procedure. But this article is not about that. It

Sanders II

is about why an 18-year-old kid was asleep in a gold **Mercedes Benz** with a loaded gun in his pants. And more importantly, why no one really seemed to care. Did his parents know where he was? Did all of those well wishers who took the time to spray-paint "*Fuck the Police*" on a T-shirts know or care that Nate was in danger long before that fateful night?

Or did they just accept it?

This is likely the most gut-wrenching criticism anyone can ever level. How can I criticize the parents of a slain son? How can I criticize a community that has faced so much adversity? How can I speak ill of the dead?

My criticism, of course, will do no good. It is the community as a whole that needs to take a hard, honest look at itself and decide whether taking responsibility for another young man's life is just too painful. Whether losing another generation of sons is a fair price to pay to avoid the fearful act of introspection. It is easy to criticize the police. It is hard to criticize ourselves. Perhaps accepting fate quietly and without resistance is what our community is prepared to do – although I do not think so.

I was reminded of this feeling of inevitability by **Steven Brown**, a gentleman who came to the community meeting held at the **Delco Center** this past Monday. Addressing **Police Chief Art Acevedo**, **Mr. Brown**, father of two, expressed fear about the way his children will be treated. **Brown** said of his children, "*Eventually, they will be out roaming the street, and I just want to put an end to this before that.*"

I know what **Mr. Brown** is saying. I just find his choice of words interesting. "*Roaming the streets.*" At a certain point all children grow up. This does not mean, however, that at age 17 they should be loose, aimless and vulnerable to both their own passions and others', to "roam the streets." Perhaps the community would be better served spending less time demonizing the police and the entire judicial system and more time making sure our children are not roaming the streets, but instead are learning, growing and becoming the kind of men and women a community can be proud of.

Looking For Answers

By Vincent Tovar

On Monday, June 1st, a community meeting was held to resolve concerns among community residents, concerned citizens, the **Austin Police Department**, and city officials in the aftermath of **Nathaniel Sanders'** death. **Nathaniel** was allegedly shot twice and killed by eight-year veteran **Austin Police Officer Leonardo Quintana** on May 11th. A concerned community gathered in the streets on that controversial day to express both their grief and discontent with the situation. Those same emotions filled the **Delco Center** almost three weeks later as a crowd of more than 500 assembled to pose questions and comment on the events.



ABOVE: Nate Sanders, III and Officer Quintana

"...when we leave here, we will have discovered some things that we can do to make our city a better place."

At the meeting's invocation, this message started things off and encouraged everyone in attendance to work together in this conflict resolution both at the meeting and in the ongoing, long-term process. **Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo** followed the prayer by apologizing to the **Sanders** family for letting **Nathaniel's** body lay for (five) hours before receiving any medical attention. **Chief Acevedo** also took the blame for an "antiquated" video camera system in the patrol cars. (Only one of three cars videotaped the incident.) Afterwards, concerned citizens addressed the police and city officials with questions about probable stop procedures, dashboard cameras, and lack of a Citizen Action Committee, which would have unbiased volunteers facilitate a crime scene investigation.

"Do you care?"

After a concerned citizen asked this, the meeting took a personal turn. Many audience members jeered and expressed criticism of **Mayor Will Wynn's** response, but City Council Members and **Mayor-Elect Lee Leffingwell** calmed the crowd and expressed that he cared, while promising "to work towards answers while Mayor of Austin." Others expressed concerns about

how this issue is a serious problem in **East Austin**, the fact that dried blood still stains the apartment complex parking lot, the community is losing trust in the **City of Austin** and the **Austin Police Department**, and the importance of evaluating the deep cultural competency training by APD.

"We're going to fight for our kids!"

A community parent didn't make this declaration. Neither did a teacher nor elder made this statement. And it wasn't a threat to the police and public officials present. This was the strong reaction of **Chief Acevedo** as he responded to the President of Blackshear Neighborhood. To an enormous amount of applause, the Neighborhood President voiced that the increasing "fees and penalties placed on drug dealers lead to the dealers selling more drugs in order to pay off the fees and penalties", which he later termed the "cycle of criminalization". **Chief Acevedo's** emotions became more apparent as his response challenged everyone to tackle the external factors that are seducing our youth. These sentiments received much applause and lead us back to the initial invocation. There *were* many discoveries made at Monday's meeting, but what will follow to make our own city a better place? And can we work together to make it happen?

Judge Sonia Sotomayor

This article courtesy of the White House, Office of the Press Secretary

Sonia Sotomayor has served as a judge on the **United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit** since October 1998. She has been hailed as “one of the ablest federal judges currently sitting” for her thoughtful opinions,ⁱ and as “a role model of aspiration, discipline, commitment, intellectual prowess and integrity”ⁱⁱ for her ascent to the federal bench from an upbringing in a South Bronx housing project.

Her American story and three decade career in nearly every aspect of the law provide Judge Sotomayor with unique qualifications to be the next Supreme Court Justice. She is a distinguished graduate of two of America’s leading universities. She has been a big-city prosecutor and a corporate litigator. Before she was promoted to the Second Circuit by **President Clinton**, she was appointed to the District Court for the Southern District of New York by **President George H.W. Bush**. She replaces Justice Souter as the only Justice with experience as a trial judge.

Judge Sotomayor served 11 years on the **Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit**, one of the most demanding circuits in the country, and has handed down decisions on a range of complex legal and constitutional issues. If confirmed, **Sotomayor** would bring more federal judicial experience to the **Supreme Court** than any justice in 100 years, and more overall judicial experience than anyone confirmed for the Court in the past 70 years. **Judge Richard C. Wesley**, a **George W. Bush** appointee to the Second Circuit, said “*Sonia is an outstanding colleague with a keen legal mind. She brings a wealth of knowledge and hard work to all her endeavors on our court. It is both a pleasure and an honor to serve with her.*” In addition to her distinguished judicial service, **Judge Sotomayor** is a Lecturer at **Columbia University Law School** and was also an adjunct professor at **New York University Law School** until 2007.

An American Story

Judge Sonia Sotomayor has lived the American dream. Born to a Puerto Rican family, she grew up in a public housing project in the **South Bronx**. Her parents moved to **New York** during World War II – her mother served in the **Women’s Auxiliary Corps** during the war. Her father, a factory worker with a third-grade education, died when **Sotomayor** was nine years old. Her mother, a nurse, then raised **Sotomayor** and her younger brother, **Juan**, now a physician in **Syracuse**. After her father’s death, **Sotomayor** turned to books for solace, and it was her new found love of **Nancy Drew** that inspired a love of reading and learning, a path that ultimately led her to the law.

Most importantly, at an early age, her mother instilled in **Sotomayor** and her brother a belief in the power of education. Driven by an indefatigable work ethic, and rising to the challenge of managing a diagnosis of juvenile

diabetes, **Sotomayor** excelled in school. **Sotomayor** graduated as valedictorian of her class at **Blessed Sacrament** and at **Cardinal Spellman High School** in **New York**. She first heard about the Ivy League from her high school debate coach, **Ken Moy**, who attended **Princeton University**, and she soon followed in his footsteps after winning a scholarship.

At **Princeton**, she continued to excel, graduating **summa cum laude**, and **Phi Beta Kappa**. She was a co-recipient of the **M. Taylor Pyne Prize**, the highest honor **Princeton** awards to an undergraduate. At **Yale Law School**, **Judge Sotomayor** served as an editor of the **Yale Law Journal** and as managing editor of the **Yale Studies in World Public Order**. One of **Sotomayor’s** former **Yale Law School** classmates, **Robert Klonoff** (now Dean of Lewis & Clark Law School), remembers her intellectual toughness from law school: “She would stand up for herself and not be intimidated by anyone.” [**Washington Post**, 5/7/09]

A Champion of the Law

Over a distinguished career that spans three decades, **Judge Sotomayor** has worked at almost every level of our judicial system – yielding a depth of experience and a breadth of perspectives that will be invaluable – and is currently not represented — on our highest court. **New York City District Attorney Morgenthau** recently praised **Sotomayor** as an “able champion of the law” who would be “highly qualified for any position in which wisdom, intelligence, collegiality and good character could be assets.” [**Wall Street Journal**, 5/9/09]

A Fearless and Effective Prosecutor



Fresh out of **Yale Law School**, **Judge Sotomayor** became an **Assistant District Attorney** in **Manhattan** in 1979, where she tried dozens of criminal cases over five years. Spending nearly every day in the court room, her prosecutorial work typically involved “street crimes,” such as murders and robberies, as well as child abuse, police misconduct, and fraud cases. She was co-counsel in the “Tarzan Murderer” case, which convicted a murderer to 67 and ½ years to life in prison, and was sole counsel in a multiple-defendant case involving a **Manhattan** housing project shooting between rival family groups.

A Corporate Litigator

She entered private practice in 1984, becoming a partner in 1988 at the firm **Pavia and Harcourt**. She was a general civil litigator involved in all facets of commercial work including, real estate, employment, banking, contracts, and agency law. In addition, her practice had a significant concentration in intellectual property law, including trademark, copyright and unfair competition issues. Her typical clients were significant corporations doing international business. The managing partner who hired her, **George Pavia**, remembers being instantly impressed with the young **Sonia Sotomayor** when he hired her in 1984, noting that “she was just ideal for us in terms of her background and training.” [**Washington Post**, May 7, 2009]

A Sharp and Fearless Trial Judge

Her judicial service began in October 1992 with her appointment to the **United States District Court** for the **Southern District of New York** by **President George H.W. Bush**. Still in her 30s, she was the youngest member of the court. From 1992 to 1998, she presided over roughly 450 cases. As a trial judge, she earned a reputation as a sharp and fearless jurist who does not let powerful interests bully her into departing from the rule of law.

In 1995, for example, she issued an injunction against Major League Baseball owners, effectively ending a baseball strike that had become the longest work stoppage in professional sports history and had caused the cancellation of the World Series the previous fall. She was widely lauded for saving baseball. **Claude Lewis** of the **Philadelphia Inquirer** wrote that by saving the season, **Judge Sotomayor** joined “the ranks of **Joe DiMaggio**, **Willie Mays**, **Jackie Robinson** and **Ted Williams**.”

A Tough, Fair and Thoughtful Jurist

President Clinton appointed **Judge Sotomayor** to the **U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit** in 1998. She is the first Latina to serve on that court, and has participated

Juez Sonia Sotomayor

in over 3000 panel decisions, authoring roughly 400 published opinions. Sitting on the Second Circuit, **Judge Sotomayor** has tackled a range of questions: from difficult issues of constitutional law, to complex procedural matters, to lawsuits involving complicated business organizations.

In this context, **Sotomayor** is widely admired as a judge with a sophisticated grasp of legal doctrine. "She appreciates the complexity of issues," said **Stephen L. Carter**, a Yale professor who teaches some of her opinions in his classes. Confronted with a tough case, Carter said, "she doesn't leap at its throat but reasons to get to the bottom of issues." For example, in **United States v. Quattrone**, Judge Sotomayor concluded that the trial judge had erred by forbidding the release of jurors' names to the press, concluding after carefully weighing the competing concerns that the trial judge's concerns for a speedy and orderly trial must give way to the constitutional freedoms of speech and the press.

Sotomayor also has keen awareness of the law's impact on everyday life. Active in oral arguments, she works tirelessly to probe both the factual details and the legal doctrines in the cases before her and to arrive at decisions that are faithful to both. She understands that upholding the rule of law means going beyond legal theory to ensure consistent, fair, common-sense application of the law to real-world facts.

For example, In **United States v. Reimer**, **Judge Sotomayor** wrote an opinion revoking the US citizenship for a man charged with working for the **Nazis in World War II Poland**, guarding concentration camps and helping empty the Jewish ghettos. And in **Lin v. Gonzales** and a series of similar cases, she ordered renewed consideration of the asylum claims of Chinese women who experienced or were threatened with forced birth control, evincing in her opinions a keen awareness of those women's plights.

Judge Sotomayor's appreciation of the real-world implications of judicial rulings is paralleled by her sensible practicality in evaluating the actions of law enforcement officers. For example, in **United States v. Falso**, the defendant was convicted of possessing child pornography after FBI agents searched his home with a warrant. The warrant should not have been issued, but the agents did not know that, and Judge Sotomayor wrote for the court that the officers' good faith justified using the evidence they found. Similarly in **United States v. Santa**, **Judge Sotomayor** ruled that when police search a suspect based on a mistaken belief that there is valid arrest warrant out on him, evidence found during the search should not be suppressed. Ten years later, in **Herring v. United States**, the **Supreme Court** reached the same conclusion. In her 1997 confirmation hearing, Sotomayor spoke of her judicial philosophy, saying "I don't believe we should bend the Constitution under any circumstance. It says



what it says. We should do honor to it." Her record on the Second Circuit holds true to that statement. For example, in **Hankins v. Lyght**, she argued in dissent that the federal government risks "an unconstitutional trespass" if it attempts to dictate to religious organizations who they can or cannot hire or dismiss as spiritual leaders. Since joining the Second Circuit, **Sotomayor** has honored the Constitution, the rule of law, and justice, often forging consensus and winning conservative colleagues to her point of view.

A Commitment to Community

Judge Sotomayor is deeply committed to her family, to her co-workers, and to her community. **Judge Sotomayor** is

a doting aunt to her brother **Juan's** three children and an attentive godmother to five more. She still speaks to her mother, who now lives in **Florida**, every day.

At the courthouse, **Judge Sotomayor** helped found the collegiality committee to foster stronger personal relationships among members of the court. Seizing an opportunity to lead others on the path to success, she recruited judges to join her in inviting young women to the courthouse on Take Your Daughter to Work Day, and mentors young students from troubled neighborhoods

Her favorite project, however, is the **Development School for Youth program**, which sponsors workshops for inner city high school students. Every semester, approximately 70 students attend 16 weekly workshops that are designed to teach them how to function in a work setting. The workshop leaders include investment bankers, corporate executives and Judge Sotomayor, who conducts a workshop on the law for 25 to 35 students. She uses as her vehicle the trial of Goldilocks and recruits six lawyers to help her. The students play various roles, including the parts of the prosecutor, the defense attorney, Goldilocks and the jurors, and in the process they get to experience openings, closings, direct and cross-examinations. In addition to the workshop experience, each student is offered a summer job by one of the corporate sponsors. The experience is rewarding for the lawyers and exciting for the students, commented **Judge Sotomayor**, as "it opens up possibilities that the students never dreamed of before." [Federal Bar Council News, Sept./Oct./Nov. 2005, p.20]

This is one of many ways that **Judge Sotomayor** gives back to her community and inspires young people to achieve their dreams. She has served as a member of the **Second Circuit Task Force on Gender, Racial and Ethnic Fairness** in the Courts and was formerly on the Boards of Directors of the **New York Mortgage Agency**, the **New York City Campaign Finance Board**, and the **Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund**.



Calendar of Events

- June 17th, 2009** Dale Carnegie Course Informative Session at Country Inn & Suites, 1560 IH South, San Marcos, Texas 78666 TIME: 6:00pm to 8:30pm. This FREE session will introduce you to the Dale Carnegie Course. Look around you at successful business people, world leaders, professional athletes and famous entertainers. You'll find a disproportionately high number of Dale Carnegie Course graduates. In fact, the Dale Carnegie Course has transformed the lives of over 7 million graduates. Visit the Chamber's Website at www.sanmarcostexas.com for more information.
- June 18th, 2009** Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting at Saltgrass Steakhouse, 100 Sessions Dr. San Marcos, Texas 78666 TIME: 11:30am to 1:00pm Any member of the San Marcos Area Chamber of Commerce is welcome to attend our committee meetings. It is free to attend, but you must pay for your lunch. Our next meeting will have Dr. Patty Shafer, Superintendent of the San Marcos CISD, as the guest speaker. Visit the Chamber's Website at www.sanmarcostexas.com to find out more about our committees.
- June 18th, 2009** Lead Group Meeting at Tres Hermanas Restaurant & Cantina, 2550 Hunter Road San Marcos, Texas 78766 12:00pm to 1:00pm All Chamber members are welcome to attend our committee meetings. The Chamber Leads Group helps Chamber members grow their business by giving and receiving profitable leads. Please visit the Chamber's Website at www.sanmarcostexas.com for more information on the Leads Group.
- June 19th, 2009** **Alfonso Ramos / Ruben Ramos and the Mexican Revolution** at Cuauhtemoc Hall in San Marcos, Texas. 1100 Patton Street. Doors open at 7:00 pm Dance 8:00 pm to 12:00
Michael Salgado at Tejano Ranch in Austin, Texas 7601 North Lamar Blvd. Doors open at 8:00 pm
Ricky Naranjo y Los Gamblers at Club Exkandalo in New Braunfels, Texas
- June 20th, 2009** **Mariachi Vargas de Tacatilan** will be performing in Austin, Texas at the Long Center, Dell Hall. For more information call: (512) 474-5664
- June 26th, 2009** **David Lee Garza y Los Musicales** at Tejano Ranch in Austin, Texas 7601 North Lamar
Gary Hobbs at Cuauhtemoc Hall in San Marcos, Texas 1100 Patton Street
Lost Texas Wranglers at the Monarch Event Center in Austin, Texas Doors open at 7:00
Little Joe y La Familia at Santa Cruz Catholic Church Annual Fiesta 2009 in Buda, Texas
Los Palominos at Santa Cruz Catholic Church Annual Fiesta 2009 in Buda, Texas

Word Power

En Palabras Hay Poder

No one can ever argue in the name of education that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual, trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of *La Voz de Hays County*.

Nadie puede averiguar en el nombre de la educación que es mejor saber menos que saber más. Siendo bilingüe o trilingüe es parte de ser educado en el siglo 21. Esperamos traer a nuestros lectores de *La Voz de Hays County* una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

Judge	Juez
Court	Corte
Nomination	Nominación
Worried	Percupado
Word	Palabra
Help	Ayuda
Discrimination	Discriminación
Justice	Justicia
Forgotten	Olvidado
Memory	Memoria
Hope	Esperanza
First Time	Primera Vez



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Job Opening

Associate Director for Hispanic Religious Education and Formation

Organization: Religious Education and Formation

Contact: Geri Telepak

Phone: 512-949-2469

Fax: 512-949-2520

Email: Geri-telepak @ austindiocese.org

Description: This is a full-time position.

Responsibilities:

Assist in the implementation and administration of Hispanic Catechesis programs Assist parishes in the design of an overall integrated parish structure for Hispanic ministry Catechist certification Assessment of religious education programs Teaching in various programs offered by the department Collaboration with Office of Hispanic Ministry and other Diocesan offices Maintenance of pertinent records Other duties as assigned.

Skills: The position requires an M.A. in theology or related field from a Catholic institution Excellent English and Spanish written and verbal skills Ability to work with Microsoft Office - Word, Excel & Access. Candidates must be well organized, self-motivated, attentive to details and able to work well with others. Fluency in Spanish required. Resumes must be accompanied by a completed employment application. Mail to P. O. Box 15405, Austin, TX 78761-5405, fax to 512-949-2520, or e-mail to Geri-telepak@austindiocese.org.

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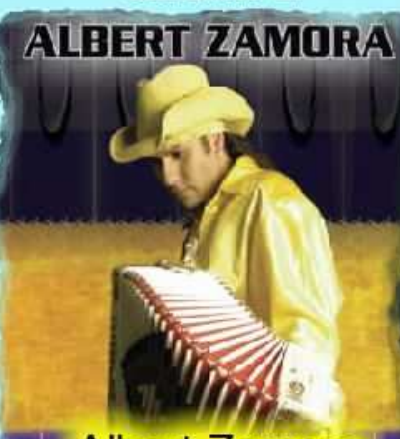


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including their latest Mas de 110 Años. Y Aqui Estamos (More than 110 years and here we are). Over 3,000 videos of Mariachi Vargas performances can be seen and heard on YouTube. Mariachi Vargas consists of twelve men who represent multiple generations and some of the greatest musicians and vocalists in the world. For more information visit www.mariachimusic.com.