Global Initiatives Council

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

9 a.m. Registration & Networking
9:30 – 11 a.m. Program

MEETING AGENDA

I. Welcome & 2014 Council Leadership Intro
   Carlos Valderrama
   Senior Vice President, Global Initiatives
   L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce

   Francisco Uribe
   2014 Chair, Global Initiatives Council
   Director, State, Local and International Government Relations
   The Home Depot

II. Update on the Port of Los Angeles
    Ambassador Vilma Martinez
    President
    Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners

III. Questions & Answers

    Adjourn.

Next meeting:
World Trade Week Kickoff Breakfast 2014
Friday May 2, 2014
7:15-10:30 a.m.
Ambassador Vilma Martinez, the first woman to represent the United States in Buenos Aires as Ambassador, was appointed to the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners by Mayor Eric Garcetti and confirmed by the Los Angeles City Council on November 19, 2013.

Ambassador Martinez has been a partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson since 1982, where she specialized in federal and state court commercial litigation. In recent years, her legal practice focused on advising companies on steps to enhance their equal employment opportunity policies and build diversity and inclusion initiatives into their business plans.

Prior to Munger, Tolles & Olson, Ambassador Martinez served as president and general counsel of the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) for nine years. One of her most significant accomplishments as head of MALDEF was developing an operating framework that enabled it to grow and support a broader array of activities. Ambassador Martinez’s previous professional endeavors also include work as litigation associate at Cahill, Gordon & Reindel in New York, and as a staff attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Enriching Ambassador Martinez’s experience is a history of continued public service on numerous nonprofit boards. She served as chairman of the Board of Regents of the University of California from 1984 to 1986, and was a regent from 1976 to 1990. She previously served as a board member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association and as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She chaired the Pacific Council’s Study Group on Mexico and served on the advisory boards of Columbia Law School and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California.

Ambassador Martinez was appointed by President William Clinton to serve on his Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiations from 1994 to 1996. She was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as the United States Ambassador to Argentina from 2009 to 2013. In 2013, she was awarded the Order of May (the highest honor awarded by Argentina to a foreign national) in recognition for her tenure and for her work on behalf of improving mutual cooperation and understanding.
Ambassador Martinez has been a popular speaker at educational institutions around the nation, including Harvard Law School, Yale University, University of Notre Dame, Stanford University, and her alma mater, the University of Texas at Austin. Her awards include:

- Margaret Brent Award (American Bar Association)
- Pioneer Award and LEX Award (Mexican-American Bar Association)
- Maynard Toll Award (Legal Aid Foundation)
- Distinguished Alumna Award (University of Texas)
- Medal for Excellence (Columbia University)
- Valerie Kantor Award for Extraordinary Achievement (MALDEF)
- Jefferson Award (American Institute for Public Service)

Ambassador Martinez earned a bachelor of arts from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor of laws from Columbia Law School. She is a member of the California Bar Association.

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