American Heritage Awards

Friday, June 5, 2009 The Palazzo Hotel-Resort-Casino Las Vegas, Nevada



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American Heritage Awards

Friday, June 5, 2009

Opening Reception Seated Dinner Welcoming Remarks Special Entertainment American Immigration Council Presentation 2009 Fifth Grade Essay Contest Winner Awards Presentation Closing Remarks

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About the AMERICAN COUNCIL

The American Immigration Council—formerly the American Immigration Law Foundation (AILF)—was established in 1987 as a tax-exempt, nonprofit, educational, charitable organization. The Council is dedicated to increasing public understanding of immigration law and policy and the value of immigration to American society and to advancing fundamental fairness and due process under the law for immigrants. Working closely with leading immigration experts throughout the country, the Council has established four core program areas.

Legal Action Center

The Council's Legal Action Center (LAC) works to advance fundamental fairness in United States immigration law and to protect the constitutional and legal rights of immigrants, refugees, and other non-citizens. The LAC conducts national impact litigation; writes amicus curiae ("friend of the court") briefs; tracks and publicizes immigration litigation through the Litigation Clearinghouse; produces Practice Advisories on a wide variety of topics; conducts the Litigation Institute; organizes national and local litigation meetings; and provides technical support for lawyers litigating due process and fairness issues in family, removal and business immigration cases nationwide.

Immigration Policy Center

The Immigration Policy Center (IPC) is the research arm of the Council and is dedicated to analysis of the contributions made to the United States by immigrants. Together, the IPC director and staff have been a major voice in the national debate on comprehensive immigration reform. Their activities include testifying before Congress and publishing timely reports to provide lawmakers, the press and the public with critically important information about the need for sensible immigration reform—most recently through the newly launched, all-inclusive website www.immigrationpolicy.org.

Community Education Center

The Community Education Center provides children the opportunity to learn about the importance of immigration to the United States. The Center works with teachers and with children's book authors to train teachers and provide lesson plans on immigration. The Center also presents training workshops and conferences nationwide; produces inclusive training manuals; and maintains a travelling exhibit on immigration.

International Exchange Center

The Council's International Exchange Center facilitates American business to train young international professionals in careerenhancing kills to bring back to their countries of origin. The participating institutions and businesses benefit from exposure to ideas from differing parts of the world and the trainees benefit from exposure to American methodologies. The International Exchange Center also provides opportunities for Americans to travel overseas to explore immigrations issues on a global scale.

Additional Activities

In addition to these four core program areas, the Council conducts many other activities. They include organizing the and presenting the Awards and in conjunction with the American Immigration Lawyers Association's (AILA) CLE conferences to honor the individual accomplishments of outstanding immigrants.

The American Immigration Council

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5th Grade Creative Writing Contest Winner



Olivia Chiu

1st Place Winner: The American Punch By Olivia Chiu

Monterey Hills Elementary School South Pasadena, California *AILA's Southern California Chapter*

The American Punch

America arrived at the Annual Society of the United Nations and walked in, seeing other countries dancing and chatting. Instead of discussing important topics, their meetings were always just fun and games. America sat down and drank a cup of punch. Then she chatted with Indonesia until Canada asked her to dance, because they were neighbors. While they were dancing, Canada asked, "Why are you so prosperous?" America thought a little and answered, "Between 1880 and 1920, many people immigrated to me, arriving in the millions. In all, there were 25 million people that came."

"There is no way that there were 25 million immigrants passed through your borders! It is impossible!" cried China, who had been listening. "Impossible!"

"I am like this punch I am drinking, made up of various ingredients. Immigrants from all over the world brought different foods, clothing, and religions. I am proud of the diversity. The exchange of ideas makes everybody more open-minded and accepting. If you walk down one of my busy streets nowadays, you will see many different shops: Chinese, Hispanic, Middle Eastern, all side by side and getting along.

"However, the immigrants brought not only their cultures, but their best talents. I am sure you have heard of these people: Albert Einstein, the greatest scientist in the 20th century, Madeleine Albright, a former secretary of state, Martina Navratilova, world class tennis player, David Ho, a world famous AIDS researcher, Yo-Yo Ma, world famous cellist, and Ang Lee, an internationally known movie director.

"In the early days, the immigrants worked very hard for very little pay. They had all kinds of jobs, from building the great transcontinental railroad to doing laundry. Most Chinese and Irish built the railroad, the Irish on the east coast and the Chinese building on the west coast. Their sacrifices laid the foundation for my prosperity.

"Even today, the immigrants really believed in the American dream, which is that when you work diligently, you become successful. Because of the hard work of the immigrants and this strong belief, many second-generation Americans are successful. Anybody who works industriously can live the American dream. I am very proud of my history of immigration because I now realize that it has made me a prosperous country."

Looking around the room, America said, "I bet at least one person from all these countries here is in me, America. People came because they thought that I was a country of hope. One person actually said that in America, everything is possible. I was so happy! I am so glad that immigrants came. Now I have a diversified culture and great talents, and hardworking immigrants contributing to my prosperity."

America took a sip of punch. She was done talking. Every country applauded. Soon the music started up again and countries began to have a dancing contest. America danced with Mexico, because they were neighbors, and then when the party was over, Canada walked her home.

"Goodnight, Canada." she said.

"Goodnight." replied Canada.

The Council would like to thank American Airlines and First Bank for their contributions to the 5th Grade Creative Writing Contest.

The American Immigration Council

American Heritage Awards



Carlos Santana

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.



Cirque du Soleil



Alex Reymundo



Jean Francois Detaille

2009 Honorees

Carlos Santana Grammy award winning recording artist and founder of the Milagro Foundation

Cirque du Soleil Internationally acclaimed performance artists

Olivia Chiu 5th Grade Creative Writing Contest Winner

Master of Ceremonies

Alex Reymundo 2008 ALMA Award winner

Including a dynamic artist Jean Francois Detaille

And featuring the Las Vegas Academy for the Performing Arts, Jazz Three Band



Carlos Santana

Carlos Santana

Carlos Humberto Santana de Barragan came from the humblest of backgrounds. He was born 1947 in Autlan de Navarro, Jalisco, Mexico, the son of a *mariachi* violinist, a virtuoso who instilled a musical spirit in the boy who began playing violin at age five. Later his family moved north to the wilder border town of Tijuana and Carlos took up the guitar and began to absorb his first influences. Listening to the powerful American radio stations whose signals reached into Mexico, he fell under the spell of John Lee Hooker, T. Bone Walker, and B.B. King, a trinity of guitar heroes whose styles blurred the lines of blues and jazz.

By age 14, his family had moved to San Francisco, where Carlos graduated high school in 1965. He soon began attending shows at the Fillmore, Winterland, and Avalon ballrooms. It was an eclectic crash course in Muddy Waters, Mongo Santamaria, British rock, and the first wave of first generation Bay Area bands whose members were all just a few years older than him: Jefferson Airplane, Big Brother & the Holding Company, Grateful Dead, Quicksilver Messenger Service.

The Santana Blues Band was formed in 1966, its name owed to some fine print in the San Francisco musicians union contract that one person be named the leader, though everyone thought of it as a collective. They were an immediate sensation. By 1967, they were known simply as Santana, and eventually came to the attention of Bill Graham, who booked them for the first time at the Fillmore West on June 16, 1968. Santana was signed by Clive Davis at Columbia before the end of the year.

The band's first recording sessions took place in January 1969; after a personnel shift, the actual sessions took place in May for the landmark *Santana* debut album. The LP release was perfectly scheduled – for Tuesday, August 19, 1969, following their historic Saturday afternoon performance at the Woodstock Music & Art Fair. When Top 40 radio discovered "Evil Ways" in early 1970, it vaulted the album to #4, on its way to double-platinum, and the rank of #150 in Rolling Stone magazine's 500 Greatest Albums.

The debut's success was eclipsed at the end of 1970, when "Oye Como Va" and "Black Magic Woman" sent *Abraxas* to #1 for 6 weeks. With "Everybody's Everything" and "No One To Depend On" again reaching the Top 40, 1971's *Santana III* spent 5 weeks at #1 and brought a third consecutive multi-platinum award.

Santana would return to the Top 40 singles charts again and again although, to be sure, the band's music has always defined socalled "album-oriented rock" at its highest, most intriguing levels of sophistication. Their fusion of blues, soul, hard rock, *el ritmo Latino*, Afro-Cuban, gypsy, jazz, and folk transcends categorization, which is a tribute to the leadership and conscience of Carlos Santana.

In many ways, the band's career is bookended by *Santana, Abraxas* and *Santana III* on one end of the timeline, and – three decades later – *Supernatural, Shaman* and *All That I Am* at the other end of the timeline. In 1999 – one year after Santana was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, *Supernatural* became an unsurpassed industry phenom, the #1 album of the year and the #6 best-selling album in Soundscan history, 15-times RIAA platinum in the U.S. alone, with nearly double that number of sales worldwide. The album spent 102 weeks on the Billboard chart including 12 weeks at #1 – no album since then has logged more than 8 weeks at the top. Most significantly, *Supernatural* generated nine Grammy awards, an all-time record for a single album project.

Supernatural was a hard act to follow – but 2002's *Shaman* gave Santana a second consecutive #1 multi-platinum album. 2005's *All That I Am* entered the Billboard 200 albums chart at #2.

The arc of Santana's performing and recording career is complemented by a lifelong devotion to social activism and humanitarian causes. Carlos launched the Milagro Foundation in 1998, the culmination of decades of support for countless charities and non-profit agencies the world over. With over \$2 million in grants to date, Milagro supports organizations promoting the welfare of underserved children in the areas of health, education, and the arts.

Carlos has also become deeply involved in the fight against the AIDS pandemic in South Africa, through a partnership with ANSA – Artists for New South Africa. In fact, all of the proceeds from Santana's 2003 American tour were donated by Carlos to the cause. Other organizations they have championed include Hispanic Education and Media Group, Doctors Without Borders, Save the Children, Childreach, Rainforest Action Network, Greenpeace, American Indian College Fund, Amnesty International, and the Los Angeles-based Museum of Tolerance.

After more than 40 years on the world stage, Carlos Santana is at a new pinnacle in his career, more vital and relevant – and more exposed on radio, tv and the Internet – than ever before. His passionate "old school" virtuosity and "new school" cool attract the hippest artists to every new recording project that he undertakes. At the essence of it all is a signature sound that is unique and instantly identifiable. With his lifetime of achievement and dedication to music, every move that Santana makes is nothing less than a multi-cultural event – the soundtrack for the world.

The American Immigration Council would like to graciously thank Kitsaun King Chad Wilson Rita Gentry and Michael Jensen

Cirque du Soleil

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.



It all started in Baie-Saint-Paul, a small town near Quebec City, in Canada. There, in the early eighties, a band of colorful characters roamed the streets, striding on stilts, juggling, dancing, breathing fire, and playing music. They were Les Échassiers de Baie-Saint-Paul (the Baie-Saint-Paul Stiltwalkers), a street theatre group founded by Gilles Ste-Croix. Already, the townsfolk were impressed and intrigued by the young performers – who included one Guy Laliberté who became founder of Cirque du Soleil.

The troupe went on to found Le Club des talons hauts (the High Heels Club), and then, in 1982, organized La Fête foraine de Baie-Saint-Paul, a cultural event in which street performers from all over met to exchange ideas and enliven the streets of the town for a few days. La Fête foraine was repeated in 1983 and 1984. Le Club des talons hauts attracted notice, and Guy Laliberté, Gilles Ste-Croix and their cronies began to cherish a crazy dream: to create a Quebec circus and take the troupe traveling around the world.

In 1984, Quebec City was celebrating the 450th anniversary of Canada's discovery by Jacques Cartier, and they needed a show that would carry the festivities out across the province. Guy Laliberté presented a proposal for a show called *Cirque du Soleil* (Circus of the Sun), and succeeded in convincing the organizers. And Cirque du Soleil hasn't stopped since!

From this one show, Cirque du Soleil has grown from an organization with only 73 employees in 1984 to a dynamic performance company with more than 4,000 employees, representing over 40 nationalities and speaking 25 different languages; this includes more than 1,000 artists. In 2009, Cirque du Soleil will present 19 shows simultaneously throughout the world. The company has received such prestigious awards as the Emmy, Drama Desk, Bambi, ACE, Gémeaux, Félix, and Rose d'Or de Montreux. Cirque du Soleil International Headquarters are in Montreal, Canada.



Jean Francois Detaille

Jean Francois Detaille

Born in Namur, Belgium, Jean Francois Detaille discovered his passion for art at an early age. His father's hobby was painting and on vacations with his parents in Spain and the South of France, Jean Francois would watch the local artists create on-the-spot portraits for tourists. In 1975, after a chance meeting in Figueras, Spain with the flamboyant artist Salvador Dali, Jean Francois realized that the quiet life of the studio artist was not for him. In 1976 he enrolled in the Academy des Beaux Art in Belgium, best known as the school of painters such as Jan van Eyck, Brueghel, Rubens, Magritte, James Ensor, Alechinsky andothers, to develop his talent along more formal lines. Upon completion, he enrolled in theAcademy des Beaux Arts in Paris, known over the years as the birthplace of numerous art movements, the base of Academic painters Messonier and Jean Baptiste Edouard Detaille, and the school of impressionist painters Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh, Jean Francois Millet, Paul Gauguin, Henri Matisse, cubist Pablo Picasso, surrealist Salvador Dali, conceptual artist Ben Wautier and performance artist Yves Klein.

Jean Francois' desire for adventure led him to travel widely. In 1982, he packed his bags and art supplies, traveled around the world on a sailboat and painting thousands of paintings along the way. The Caribbean, Hawaii and Tahiti were his new themes and his boat made a perfect studio.

"I always painted in front of an audience to music. In school I was faster than everybody else", says Jean Francois. Searching for a methodology that would harness his technical skills and allow a rapid, spontaneous style of work, he created Extreme Art in the early 1990's. Working with explosive energy and without preliminary plans or sketches, Jean Francois uses forceful strokes of vibrant color to fill large canvases in minutes. He explains that working at this rapid pace opens a more direct channel between the image in his mind and the motions of his hands, giving the finished work greater immediacy and power.

In 1997, Jean Francois was asked to perform in the show "Madhattan" at the New York New York Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. That engagement resulted in other invitations from producers and event planners in several countries. In 2000, he was named the Spotlight Awards Entertainer of the Year for the special/corporate event market. And continued to reap awards as the years went by. Jean Francois quickly became the most sought after event painter traveling the world for special appearances from Las Vegas to Hong Kong, Milan, Paris, Tokyo, London and Monaco.

Jean Francois recently decided to reinvent himself, taking the show in a new direction and stretching the limits of his art form by using a different type of medium; clay. Combining that with his performance art, skillful sculpting hands and stand up comedy, his ExtremeArt act has turned into a full evening show. Jean Francois' current projects are a PBS special, a theatre show-"Les Tableaux Noirs", and possibly an Off-Broadway and Las Vegas show.



Alex Reymundo Master of Ceremonies

Alex Reymundo

Best known as one of the "Original Latin Kings of Comedy," alongside George Lopez, Cheech Marin, Paul Rodriguez and Joey Medina, Alex Reymundo has seen a whirlwind of success in the past few years, culminating with his receiving the 2008 ALMA Award for Outstanding Comedy Special.

Alex just concluded a development deal with Showtime that saw his first one hour comedy special, "Hick-Spanic," premiere on Showtime and then again on Comedy Central. Reymundo shot his stand-up show before a live audience in Albuquerque, NM at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, rocking the house with his uniquely branded style of comedy, half-Latino and half-Hillbilly, all Hick-Spanic. Reymundo shares his perspective witt of growing up as an immigrant in a large Mexican family in Texas, to then marrying a Blond Haired Blue-eyed Southern Belle form Kentucky. Home Media & Latin DVD Awards just presented "Hick-Spanic" with *"Best Latin Stand-up DVD of the year 07"*, edging out nominations of George Lopez, Carlos Mencia & Gabriel Iglesias.

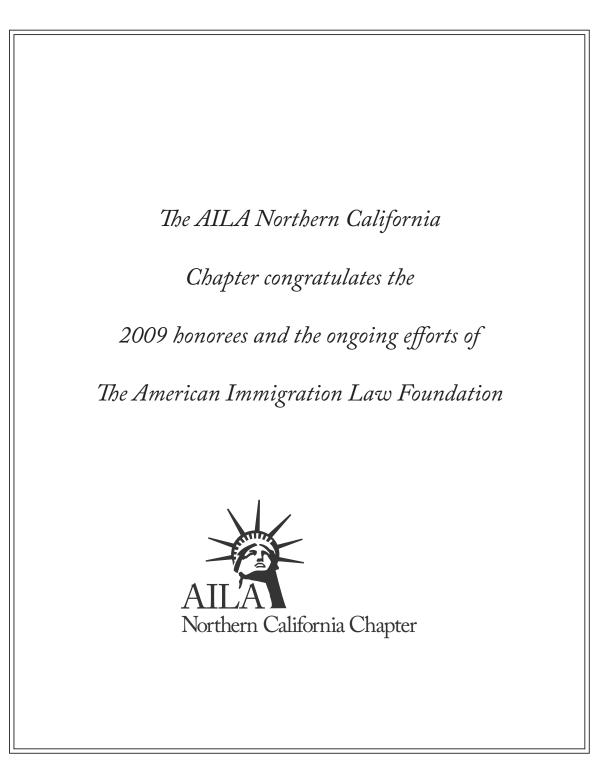
Alex also Executive produced and hosted the follow up to the Latin Kings of Comedy, "The Original Latin Divas of Comedy" and "Payaso Comedy Slam." Both specials premiered on Showtime and Comedy Central.

Currently performing on a two year nationwide tour with old buddy and fellow Texan Ron "tater salad" White, who is best known from the hugely successful "Blue Collar Comedy Tour," Reymundo brings to this stage the humor of his southern blue collar roots with the drive of a Latino immigrant for a clash of cultures which is ultimately hysterical and proving that no audience is beyond his reach.

This bilingual performer has lent his lightness to many corporations, associations, and products, all the while, keeping his eye on the moral responsibility to his community. His feature credits include, "The Movement," "El Matador," animated feature "Cars, "Permanent Vacation," "The Original Latin Kings of Comedy," "Hick-Spanic, Live in Albuquerque" "The Payaso Comedy Slam", "The Original Latin Divas of Comedy", and P. Diddy's "Bad Boys of Comedy".

New York embraces the efforts of AILF in creating a fair and just immigration system.



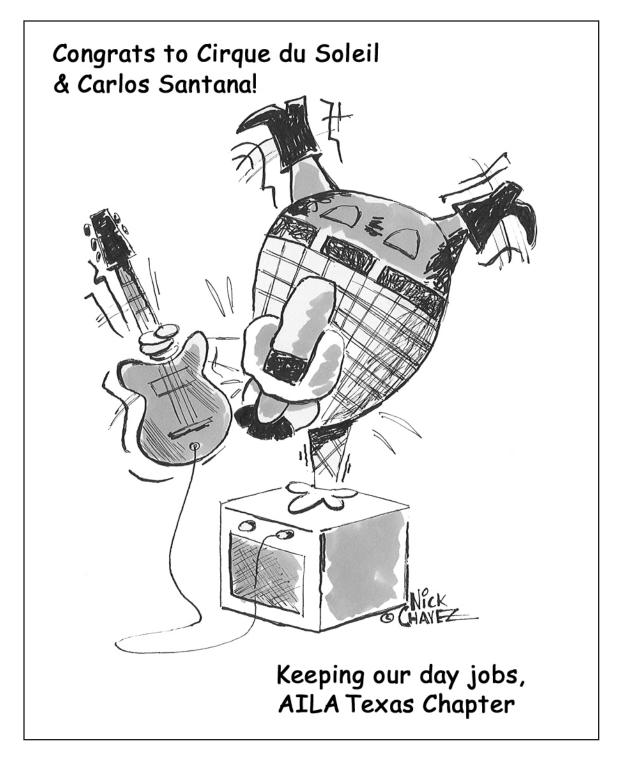


AILA Southern Florida Chapter

Joins with AILF in Saluting Tonight's Honorees

and the Many Contributions of Immigrants.







Celebrating the Achievements of Immigrants in Arts and Entertainment.

Congratulations to all the 2009 AILF honorees!



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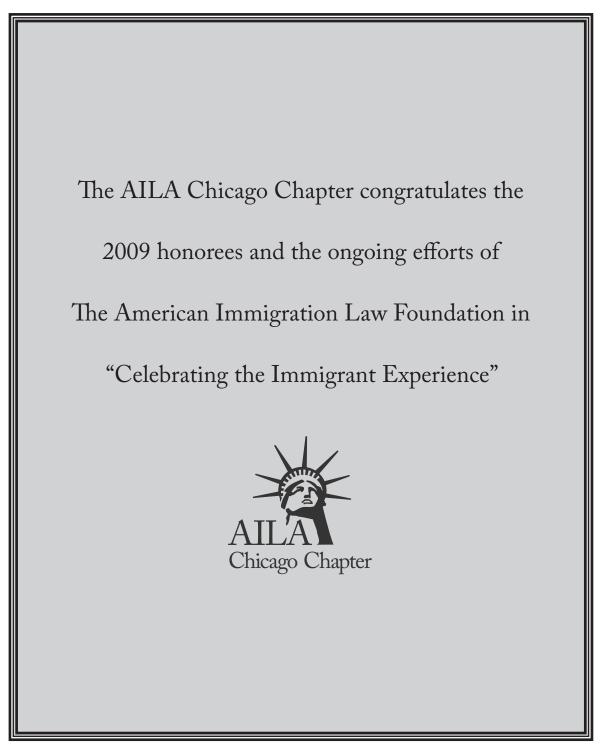
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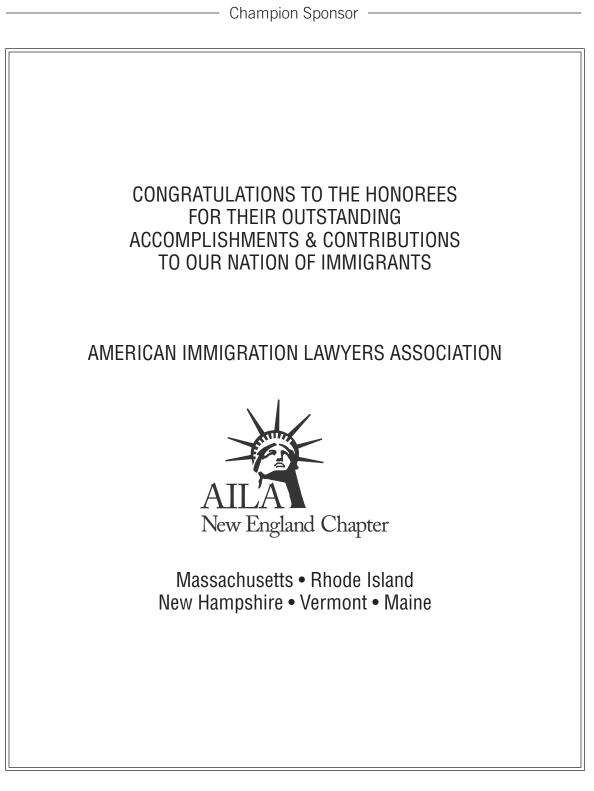
YOUR WORLD. OUR EXPERIENCE. Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP congratulates 2009 American Heritage Award Honorees Carlos Santana and Cirque du Soleil.

We also express our sincere appreciation to the American Immigration Council for its unwavering dedication to preserving our heritage as a nation of immigrants.

Global Immigration











Microsoft Corporation is deeply committed to increasing understanding in Congress, the media, the business community and the public of the importance of immigration and immigrants to our economy and to our country. The Microsoft Immigration Group salutes The American Immigration Law Foundation for its work in highlighting the role of immigrants and in increasing public awareness of the benefits of immigration.

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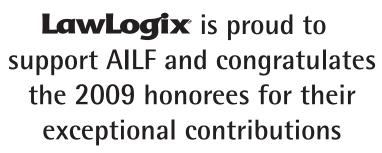
Zulkie Partners LLC congratulates the Honorees!

You make us all proud that America is a Nation of Immigrants

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AILA Santa Clara Chapter Salutes Tonight's Honorees and Their Achievements



The AILA San Diego Chapter is Proud to Salute the Important Contribution of Immigrants in San Diego and Throughout the United States



Congratulations to all of the 2009 AILF Honorees

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AILA Missouri/Kansas Chapter Salutes Tonight's Honorees



Missouri/Kansas Chapter

AILA Atlanta Chapter Salutes Tonight's Honorees and Their Achievements



AILA Michigan Chapter Joins with AILF in Saluting Tonight's Honorees and the Many Contributions of Immigrants.

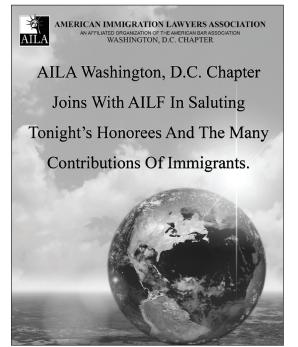


The Law Firm of Barst & Mukamal LLP

congratulates the honorees and acknowledges them for their contributions to the cultural richness of the United States

We also congratulate AILF for their invaluable contributions to the field of immigration law.

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AILA Carolinas Chapter Congratulates Tonight's Honorees Your Stories Are an Inspiration to All Immigrants



AILA Ohio Chapter Congratulates Tonight's Honorees Your Stories are an Inspiration to All Immigrants



SEYFARTH ATTORNEYS SHAWLLP

Seyfarth Shaw LLP salutes the American Immigration Council for reawakening the citizens of this nation of immigrants to a simple yet profound principle—that dignity dwells in each human being.

Dyann DelVecchio, James W. King, Angelo A. Paparelli, John F. Quill, Russell B. Swapp and Susan K. Wehrer