

This application won Ms. de las Cuevas-Diaz the Hispanic Woman of Distinction award



Felicidades!

Congratulations on your nomination as a Hispanic Woman of Distinction for 2008. The 7th annual charity luncheon and awards program, presented by Bank of America and co-sponsored by Latina Style Magazine, the nation's leading Latina publication, will recognize 12 distinguished women of Hispanic ethnicity who have made a significant contribution to the community while maintaining their culture and traditions. The former winners and local community leaders have submitted names of women who are eligible for this year's honor from Broward, Dade and Palm Beach counties.

The high-powered "Latin flavored" luncheon will take place on Friday, August 15, 2008 at the Signature Grand in Davie from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. The charities selected this year are the March of Dimes and ASPIRA who will benefit from a portion of the proceeds. A runway fashion show produced by Zola Keller featuring the Hispanic designers of the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale and Latina models will bring a colorful and entertaining feature to the luncheon. Special guests will be announced in the next few weeks.

This well-attended celebration is one of the many diverse events and activities of the 19th annual Viva Broward! Calendar of Events and will serve as the countywide official kick-off of Hispanic Heritage Month, complete with dignitaries and special guests who will be a part of the program.

Please take a moment to answer the following questions and allow us to become more familiar with you and your accomplishments. Please return this application **NO LATER THAN APRIL 15th**, either by mail, email or fax to (954) 792-7402. As diverse committee of judges will select the 12 honorees and the winners for the 2008 Hispanic Women of Distinction and the 2008 Latina Pioneer Award.

PLEASE PRINT ALL THE INFORMATION:

Name Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz

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1. What accomplishments and civic or professional projects have you been involved in over the past 3 years?

From 2003-Feb. 2006, I grew the private side of the real estate practice at **Weis Serota, Helfman, P.A.**, building a book of business that grew to \$500,000 in annual revenues. The practice grew major developers, such as Century Home Builders and Gil Development, but also banks like Regions Bank, Premier American Bank and Great Florida Bank.

In **February 2006**, I was hired by **Broad and Cassel** to help build a strong Miami real estate practice and add further strength to the firm's existing real estate practice in the Boca Raton office.

On **January 1, 2007**, I was voted into my partnership with the firm. Getting to this point with Broad and Cassel was a great experience as my abilities to build business were equally expected of me as mentoring young associates and helping build the Firm from a community perspective. There was no time that I thought I was a "shoe in" for partnership. At Broad and Cassel, they have a true partnership, there are no non-equity partners and to become an equity partner you must be voted in by the entire partnership. That meant a tour of our offices to meet every partner, in hopes of building relationships, respect and a stronger partnership through out the firm. They not only wanted to know that I am a hard worker, but also that I will continue to give back and grow the firm. It was a great journey, and knowing that my firm is behind me and will back me up to get us where we want to be is even better motivation for the future.

Throughout my career, I have successfully represented numerous developers in the purchase and loan of multi-million dollar properties, including the \$25 million purchase of property to develop 300 high-end Sunny Isles condominiums, a \$15 million Brickell Avenue project, a \$15 million Miami Beach office building, \$50 million purchase of Kendall properties for the development of single family homes and \$25 million purchase and construction loan for property in Doral. In addition, I've gained extensive experience representing many financial institutions or lenders in commercial real estate transactions.

In 2007, I represented Ciaxa Galicia, an international banking agency and the credit division of the Bank of Spain, in a construction loan of more than \$71 million to Ness Developers. The transaction closed on June 15, 2007. I worked with Efrain Lopez, loan officer and credit manager, and Augustin Lopez, General Manager of Ciaxa Galicia, on this transaction. The loan will be used by Domus One Development Group to construct the 20-story luxury waterfront development, Eloquence on the Bay in North Bay Village, Miami. The project, which will include 120 waterfront units, a private marina, and first class resort amenities, is scheduled for completion during the first quarter of 2008.

As a board member for the Cuban American Bar Association (CABA), I've been intimately involved with this organization, including chairing their first-ever fundraiser to support pro bono legal services for Hispanics, which raised \$20,000 and launched an annual event. I also chaired a judicial event for CABA that featured a keynote address by Governor Jeb Bush, raising \$56,000 for the association's continued commitment to give legal counsel to the less fortunate Hispanic community.

With the Latin Builders Association, where I am also a board member, I've volunteered with their annual toy drive since 2002 and coordinated a fundraising effort for victims of Hurricane Katrina that raised \$500,000 from developers in Miami-Dade County for the American Red Cross.

2. What community, civic and professional affiliations and leadership positions have you held within the past three years?

- Since 2000: Cuban American Bar Association
 - Chaired the organization's first-ever fund raiser to support pro bono legal services for Hispanics. The Casino-themed event raised \$20,000 and launched an annual event.
 - Chaired a judicial event that featured a keynote address by Governor Bush, raising \$56,000 for the association's continued commitment to give legal counsel to the less fortunate Hispanic community.
 - Chair, Legislative and Corporate Governance, 2008
 - Treasurer, 2008
 - Chair, pro bono event, 2006 & 2007
 - Board member, 2005
 - Treasurer and Events Chair, 2005
 - Law student mentor, since 2004

- Since 2002: Latin Builders Association
 - Toy drive volunteer, since 2002
 - Coordinated a fundraising effort for victims of Katrina that raised \$500,000 from area developers and Miami-Dade County for the American Red Cross
- Since 2003: Florida Association of Women Lawyers, active member
- Since 2003: Junior League of Miami-Dade
 - Mentor to young women as part of the Juvenile Detention Center program
- Since 2006: Commercial Real Estate for Women (CREW)
 - Membership Committee Member
- Since 2007: Enterprise Florida
 - Member, Board of Directors
- Other Current Memberships:
 - The Junior League of Miami, Gender Advocacy Program Committee/Member
 - Builders Association of South Florida
 - Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce

3. What awards, recognitions or tributes have you received during the past 3 years?

- Featured in *South Florida New Establishment* magazine's Profile section, January 2008.
- Awarded a "Key Partners Award" by the *South Florida Business Journal* in 2006.
- Named by *Florida Trend* Magazine as one of the state's 2006 & 2008 "Up and Coming Legal Elite" Attorneys.
- Named in *South Florida CEO* magazine NexGen section, November 2004.

4. Please describe your feelings about the role Hispanic women play today in society, citing any role models you may have.

Hispanic women have come a long way. Today you will find Hispanic women in board rooms, as owners of businesses and as partners in law firms. These women that have made success careers and fought through the trials of being a minority now are in the position to be such integral and important role models for the growth of future Hispanic women leaders. They have opened the doors and stand as proof to all the young Hispanic women that they too can be successful business women and can be whatever they aspire to be.

My two role models have been Elizabeth Hernandez, City Attorney for Coral Gables, and Corali Lopez-Castro, Partner at Korzyak-Tropin. Thanks to women like these, they have shown me that you can be a successful Hispanic business woman, a great attorney, a devoted community leader, and a passionate mother and wife. I aspire to follow in their footsteps so I can serve as a role model to young aspiring Hispanic business women, and show them that the future holds wonderful things for strong Hispanic women.

You can submit any attachments to this letter that you feel will allow us to get to know you more.

CONGRATULATIONS! Again, thank you for all you do!