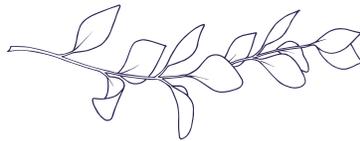




# HOPE ALUMNAE

## *Summit*

Seasons of Strength: Navigating  
Life's Transitions as Leaders



Friday, August 8 - Saturday, August 9, 2025  
Allegretto Vineyard Resort

*Paso Robles, CA*

@hopelatinas | #HOPESummit2025

**10:45 AM**

**REGISTRATION & NETWORKING**

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**11:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

**WELCOME LUNCHEON | SEASONS OF STRENGTH: NAVIGATING LIFE'S TRANSITIONS AS LEADERS**

Helen Torres, CEO, HOPE

Erica Cabrera, HOPE Board Chair | Government Relations Representative, Pacific Gas & Electric

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**12:30 - 12:45 pm**

**JEFA TALK**

Assemblymember Esmeralda Soria

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**12:50 PM – 1:00 PM**

**BREAK**

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**1:00 PM - 2:30 PM**

**LEADERSHIP WITHIN: CARING FOR BODY, MIND, AND LEGACY**

This two-part session explores the deep connection between physical well-being, emotional health, and leadership purpose. Facilitated by Michelle Seijas, with medical expertise from Dr. Ana Karina Melgar, participants will engage in guided reflection, embodied awareness, and peer conversation on the transitions that shape Latina leadership—from hormonal shifts to caregiving pressures and legacy-building.

**Facilitator:** Michelle Seijas, Ed.D. Leadership and Executive Coach and Speakers, Seijas Coaching

**Expert Contributor:** Dr. Ana Karina Melgar, M.D., Program Director, AltaMed Health Services

**PART 1 | The Body as Compass (45 min)**

Focus: Understanding the physical transitions and how they intersect with professional and leadership identities.

**PART 2 | Invisible Loads & Legacy: Mental Health and Meaning (45 min)**

Focus: The emotional transitions of caregiving, shifting identities, and reframing your legacy.

**2:30 PM – 2:40 PM**

**BREAK**

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**2:40 PM – 3:00 PM**

**“PEACE OF MIND” CENTERING RITUAL**

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**3:00 pm – 3:15 pm**

**JEFA TALK**

**Martha Guzman Aceves**, Former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator – Region 9

**Special Introduction by Lennies Gutierrez**, Director of Government Affairs, South Bay and Southern Peninsula Areas, Comcast | HOPE Board Secretary

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**3:15 PM – 4:15 PM**

**LEADING THROUGH THE STORM: WOMEN SHAPING CALIFORNIA’S FUTURE**

**Presented in partnership with HOPE and UCLA Latinas Futures 2050 Lab**

This session will spotlight how leading Latinas across California’s energy and infrastructure sectors are responding to some of the most urgent challenges of our time: climate change, political polarization, anti-equity pressures, and a rapidly evolving workforce. Together, these leaders will share how they’re navigating traditionally male-dominated industries, building a resilient and diverse workforce, responding to environmental urgency, and leading California toward a more independent energy future.

- **Maureen Zawalick**, Vice President, Business and Technical Services, PG&E – Diablo Canyon
  - **Nicole Parra**, Vice President, Community Affairs, California Resources Corporation (CRC)
  - **Karla Diaz Sayles**, Vice President, Local Public Affairs, Southern California Edison
  - **Moderator: Elsa Valay-Paz**, Vice President, Gas Acquisition, SoCalGas
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**4:15 PM – 4:20 PM**

**BREAK**

4:20 PM – 5:30PM

**WISDOM AND WINE: LATINAS ON THE FRONTLINES OF CHANGE**

Presented by HOPE &amp; UCLA Latinas Futures 2050 Lab

This 70-minute session replaces traditional panels with purposeful, roundtable conversation. It is designed to hold space for authentic, strategic dialogue around what it means to lead during this moment of national turbulence—from ICE raids to challenging our civil rights, from attacks on public education to the erosion of press freedom.

Introduction by **Maria Morales**, Policy Director, HOPE

Moderated by **Dr. Veronica Terriquez**, Director of UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center and Co-Founder of Latina Futures 2050 Lab

**ROUNDTABLE WISDOM FORUMS**

Theme	Description	Facilitator
<b>Protecting Our Rights</b>	Navigating the legal system, judicial leadership, and Latinas advancing justice.	<b>Judge Lucy Armendariz</b> 
<b>Access, Equity &amp; Innovation in Higher Education</b>	The future of higher education and Latina leadership in access and equity.	UC Regent <b>María Anguiano</b> & CSU Trustee <b>Yammilette Rodriguez</b>  
<b>Latinas &amp; Freedom of Speech</b>	Defending public discourse, free press, and community storytelling.	<b>Michele Siqueiros</b> , CEO of LA Local News Initiative 
<b>Community Wisdom in Action</b>	Resilience from organizing in the face of ICE and displacement.	<b>Vanessa Aramayo</b> , CEO & President of Alliance for a Better Community and <b>Primitiva Hernandez Martinez</b> , Executive Director 805UndocFund  
<b>Building Bridges: U.S.–Mexico Relations</b>	Diplomacy, migration, and binational Latina leadership.	<b>Rosario Marín</b> , 41st Treasurer of the United States 
<b>Publishing Our Narratives</b>	Storytelling through poetry and publishing.	<b>Mayra Flores</b> , Author and Chief of Staff for Santa Clara County Supervisor 

**5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**

**REFRESH BREAK**

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**6:30 PM – 7:00 PM**

**RECEPTION**

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**7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**DINNER & INDUCTION CEREMONY**

Helen Torres, CEO, HOPE

**INDUCTION OF HONORARY HLI ALUMNA**

Elizabeth Atlee, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer, FiveStar Gourmet Foods

**FIRESIDE CHAT: LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP**

With Linda Griego, Corporate Board Member of Paramount Global

**9:00 AM – 10:00 AM**

**BREAKFAST BUFFET**

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**9:45 AM**

**DAY TWO PROGRAM WELCOME**

Helen Torres, CEO of HOPE

Sandra Cuellar, HOPE Board Member

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**10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

**CONSTITUTIONAL CROSSROADS: LATINA LEGAL PERSPECTIVES ON DEMOCRACY'S FUTURE**

As democratic institutions face unprecedented pressure—from judicial backsliding and misinformation to civic polarization—what does it mean to protect constitutional values in today's shifting legal landscape? In this special binational session, we welcome two remarkable Latina legal leaders. Together, they will reflect on the state of constitutional principles and civic leadership across their respective countries—not as a technical or comparative legal discussion, but as a shared exploration of Where are we now? And where do we go from here?

- **Judge Wendy Avila**, Superior Court of Kern County
  - **María del Carmen Alanís**, Former Chief Magistrate of Mexico's Electoral Court and a champion of electoral justice in Latin America
  - **Moderator: Maribeth Annaguey**, Managing Partner at Annaguey McCann LLP
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**11:00 AM**

**5-MINUTE BREAK**

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**11:05 AM – 12:05 PM**

**RESILIENT & RISING: LATINA LEADERSHIP ACROSS THE NATION**

This session will focus on Latina leadership, community mobilization, and strategies for thriving in the face of new national realities. It will explore how leaders are responding to the current climate, including recent ICE actions and rising anti-immigrant sentiment. The discussion will examine strategies to organize and mobilize Latinas to defend rights, amplify voices, and build long-term resilience. It will also cover how the evolving discourse around DEI and belonging is shaping efforts in both the public and private sectors. Speakers will share lessons learned from government service and community advocacy that can inform Latina leadership nationwide.

- **Julissa Gutierrez**, Chief Diversity Officer, Office of The Governor, State of New York
- **Melissa Cabello Havrda**, Former Councilmember, San Antonio
- **Moderator: Xiomara Peña**, Vice President, HOPE

# AGENDA

Day Two | Saturday, August 9

**12:05 PM-12:35 PM**

**SUMMIT CLOSING**

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**12:35 PM – 1:30 PM**

**LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

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**1:30 PM**

**DEPART FOR WINERY - SANTELLAN VINEYARDS**

If you purchased a Wine Tasting Experience, please plan to depart for the winery by 1:30 PM. We recommend arranging an Uber, carpooling, or designating a driver in advance. You will be able to check in at the winery with a HOPE team member.

This event is at a capacity, and unfortunately, no late registrants or add-ons can be accommodated. Thank you for your understanding and planning ahead.

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**2:15 PM-5:00 PM**

**WINE TASTING (PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED)**

**Santellan Vineyards**

**7750 US-101, Paso Robles, CA 93446**

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Your feedback helps us make our programs even more impactful. Take a minute to scan the QR code and share your thoughts: what inspired you, what we can improve, and what you'd like to see next. Your voice shapes the future of our work. Thank you for helping us grow!



# SPEAKER BIOS

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



## **ERICA CABRERA**

### **HOPE Board Chair and Government Relations Representative, Pacific Gas & Electric**

Erica Cabrera is a Central Valley native and HOPE Leadership Institute Alumnus, Class of 2013. She currently works for Pacific Gas & Electric as a Central Coast-Central Valley Local Government Affairs Manager servicing Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, & Tulare Counties. Erica earned a Master of Arts in Leadership and Organizational Studies from Fresno Pacific University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from California State University, Fresno. She has 10 years of experience working in local and state government; which includes serving as District Director for former Assemblymember Henry T. Perea.

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## **HELEN TORRES**

### **CEO, HOPE**

As the CEO of HOPE for 23 years, Helen Iris Torres has strategically built a Latina leadership and advocacy infrastructure in California, composed of thousands of civically engaged Latina leaders serving in elected and appointed office, as business, philanthropic and community leaders. She has created robust pathways to leadership for Latinas in high school to Latinas across the United States, resulting in over 1,600 leadership positions being filled by Latinas. Helen was raised by a single mother outside of Detroit, Michigan. She is a first-generation college graduate. Her passion to fight for women's rights stems from witnessing the sexual and racial discrimination her mother faced daily.

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## **ASSEMBLYWOMAN ESMERALDA SORIA**

### **California State Assembly, 27<sup>th</sup> Assembly District**

Assemblywoman Esmeralda Soria represents California's 27th Assembly District, which includes diverse rural and urban communities across the Central Valley in Fresno, Madera, and Merced counties. The Assemblywoman is currently serving in her 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Representative for Assembly District 27. Assemblywoman Soria currently serves as Chair of the Agriculture Committee, and has held that position since 2023, she was recently reappointed as Chair by Speaker Robert Rivas in January of 2025. Soria also serves as a member of the Governmental Organization, Banking & Finance, and the Economic Development, Growth & Household Impact committees. A first-generation American and daughter of farm workers, Assemblywoman Soria knows firsthand about hard work and sacrifice, having worked alongside her parents in the Central Valley's agricultural fields throughout her childhood. She then worked her way through college and law school. She was born and raised in the Central Valley.



## **JOHANNA BONILLO**

### **Director of Administration, HOPE**

Johanna provides strategic leadership across key administrative functions to ensure HOPE's day-to-day operations run efficiently while building organizational capacity and scaling operations. She drives cost-effective solutions in support of HOPE's mission and develops innovative systems that enhance team productivity. As Director of Administration, Johanna oversees Human Resources and Organizational Development, Fundraising Operations, Finance and Budgeting as well as serving as the principal liaison for IT strategy and support. Before joining HOPE, Johanna served as Director of Business Operations at the American Red Cross for the Los Angeles Region, where she led a team to support operations across the region's five chapters. She managed human resources and administrative functions including initiatives such as strategic grant planning, process improvement, and partnerships for service delivery across diverse worksites.

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## **MICHELLE SEIJAS, Ed.D.**

### **Leadership and Executive Coach and Speaker, Seijas Coaching**

Michelle Seijas, Ed.D. is a Latina leader on a mission to support people to reconnect with their true self so they can create systems, relationships, and futures where everyone thrives. Her passions and values led her to begin her career as a bilingual education teacher. Over her 15 years in K-12 schools, she was an elementary school vice principal, district coordinator, and high school principal. A desire grew to pursue a doctorate. It was fueled by knowing that less than 1% of Latinas in the US have completed doctoral studies. She earned her doctorate focused on solutions to the systemic devaluation of Latino students. During a 6-month sabbatical in 2017, she wrote a dream job description with no title, clear on what she needed to thrive in her professional and personal life. She re-emerged to now live the life she dreamed about, wrote about, put action to, and continues to carry out with intention.

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## **DR. ANA KARINA MELGAR**

### **M.D., Program Director, AltaMed Health Services**

Dr. Karina Melgar serves as Program Director of AltaMed's Family Medicine Residency Program. In this role, she supports the faculty to provide a safe and inclusive learning environment. Dr. Melgar is involved in curriculum building, rotation development, recruitment, scheduling, evaluation, and compliance policy. Prior to joining AltaMed, Dr. Melgar spent five years teaching kindergarten in South Los Angeles before returning to school to pursue her medical degree. Since then she has focused on providing care to ethnically diverse communities, mentoring the next generation of healthcare professionals, and working to increase diversity in the medical field. During her residency, she continued to teach and served as Academic Chief, a role in which she was actively involved in diversity advancements in the recruitment process. As Community Medicine Fellow, Dr. Melgar divided her time between teaching as junior faculty and collaborating with many community organizations.



## **LENNIES GUTIERREZ**

**Director of Government Affairs, South Bay and Southern Peninsula Areas, Comcast | HOPE Board Secretary**

Lennies has been the Director of Government Affairs for Comcast for the South Bay and Southern Peninsula areas since 2010 and previously worked on legislation for 10 years at the California State Capitol. She is an active board member of the Redwood City/San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce and the Latino Leadership Alliance. Previously, she was a board member for the Silicon Valley Organization and was an advisory council member of the Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative, the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project and the Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley. She is a graduate of the University of California at Davis and the Lorenzo Patino Law School of Sacramento.

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## **MARTHA GUZMAN ACEVES**

**Former Environmental Protection Agency – Region 9**

Martha Guzman is Founder and Partner at OGV Consulting. She has over 25 years of experience in state and federal policy development and implementation, specializing in equity-based solutions across energy, water, agriculture, and the environment. She has served as Regional Administrator for the US EPA, Commissioner at the California Public Utilities Commission, and Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary to the Governor of California. Earlier in her career, Martha worked on sustainable agricultural, rural infrastructure and workers' rights. Martha holds a Master's in Agricultural and Resource Economics from UC Davis and a Bachelor's in International Economics from Georgetown University.

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## **MAUREEN ZAWALICK**

**Vice President, Business and Technical Services, PG&E – Diablo Canyon**

Maureen is responsible for regulatory, licensing, compliance, and environmental programs, continued operations/license renewal, enterprise and operational risk management, procurement and nuclear fuel management, performance improvement and innovation, emergency preparedness, cyber security, land stewardship, business and financial planning, and academic partnerships. Maureen has over 35 years' experience in the utility and nuclear energy industry. Maureen has a degree in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Wisconsin. She is the chair of the Nuclear Energy Institute's (NEI) Emergency Preparedness Working Group and a member of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Dean of Engineering Corporate Advisory Board and California Polytechnic State University President's Council of Advisors. She serves as an Advisor to Japan's Nuclear Risk Research Center (NRRC) as part of the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI). Maureen is also the Executive Sponsor of the Women in Nuclear Chapter and National Society of Black Engineers at PG&E, and a Board Member for the Professional BusinessWomen of California and San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce.



## **NICOLE PARRA**

### **Vice President, Community Affairs, California Resources Corporation (CRC)**

Born and raised in Bakersfield, California, Parra has spent most of her life in public service. Parra has more than 35 years of extensive legislative and political experience. She spent ten years, working for U.S. Congressman Cal Dooley (retired), was elected to the California State Assembly (2002-2008), and appointed to a high-level position within the Business, Transportation and Housing agency by Governor Schwarzenegger. Parra graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1992 with a B.A. in Economics. In 1998, she earned a J.D. from the Catholic University School of Law in Washington D.C.

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## **KARLA DIAZ SAYLES**

### **Vice President, Local Public Affairs, Southern California Edison**

A Los Angeles native, Karla manages local government affairs for one of the country's largest electric utilities. In this capacity, she leads the company's efforts to build strong relationships with local governments and community leaders, engaging key stakeholders throughout Southern California to advance strategic priorities such as permit reform, grid modernization, and electrification. In addition, she oversees community engagement initiatives related to wildfire recovery and wildfire prevention. Sayles maintains her commitment to building strong communities through volunteer service on several nonprofit and community boards, including the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and Zócalo Public Square. She is an alumna of HOPE Leadership Institute and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

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## **ELSA VALAY-PAZ**

### **Vice President, Gas Acquisition – SoCalGas**

Elsa Valay-Paz is responsible for procuring natural gas for SoCalGas' and San Diego Gas & Electric's (SDG&E) residential and small commercial customers and delivering it to the utilities' system. Previously, Valay-Paz served as director of supply management for SDG&E, also a Sempra regulated utility, where she oversaw supply management, supplier diversity and logistics. Before that, she was director of origination and energy supply and dispatch for SDG&E, where she directed the energy procurement department. Valay-Paz serves as the board secretary of the Reuben H. Fleet and Science Center in San Diego and is a board member of the American Heart Association in Los Angeles. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León and a master's degree in business administration from Pepperdine University.



## **DR. VERONICA TERRIQUEZ**

### **Director of UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center and Co-Founder of Latina Futures 2050 Lab**

Dr. Veronica Terriquez directs UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center and is co-founder of the UCLA Latina Futures, 2050 Lab, an ambitious project funded through a \$15 million California state budget investment and is an important step forward in investing and integrating Latinas in public policy. She conducts innovative research that brings a civic engagement and social movement lens into conversation with sociological concerns about migration, education and youth development, and political participation. In addition to pursuing such cutting-edge research, Professor Terriquez has tirelessly dedicated her academic career and much of her adult life to supporting the civic organizing efforts to empower youth, particularly children of immigrants and youth of color.

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## **MARIA MORALES**

### **Policy Director, HOPE**

María Morales is a proud daughter of immigrants and Latina from Orange, CA. Most recently, Maria served as a legislative aide for the office of Assemblymember Phil Ting (AD-19) during his tenure as chair of the Assembly Budget committee, working on various policy areas including human services, education and environmental issues. In her role, Maria was pivotal in securing \$16.5 million in ongoing funding for foster youth supplemental housing in the state budget and successfully ushering over 10 bills to the Governor's desk for a signature. Prior to that, she was an Assembly fellow in the office of Assemblymember Mark Stone (AD-29) where she helped secure \$100 million in funding to develop in-state behavioral health services for youth with complex needs. During her time in Sacramento, Maria also served as the board treasurer for the California Latino Capitol Association Foundation (CLCAF) from 2021-2023. She started her professional career at HOPE as a research and communications fellow in 2019 and is an alumna of the University of Southern California.



## **ELIZABETH ATLEE**

### **General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer, FiveStar Gourmet Foods**

As a global C-level Business Executive and General Counsel, I enable growth while providing expertise across Legal and Litigation, Operations, Corporate Governance, Compliance, M&A, and Culture/DEI transformation in large, highly regulated environments. During her 13-year tenure at CBRE she worked globally across legal, global ethics, compliance, and operations as a member of the Global Senior, Risk, Compliance, and Legal Leadership Team.

Passionate about giving back within the Los Angeles communities, I serve on the boards of USC Gould School of Law Board of Councilors, Ronald McDonald House Charities of So. Cal, and HOPE. I'm also an Executive Member of the Latino Corporate Directors Association (LCDA), and was recognized as one of the 50 Most Powerful Latinas in Corporate America, by the Association of Latino Professionals for America (ALPFA) and Fortune magazine.



## **LINDA GRIEGO**

### **Corporate Board Member of Paramount Global**

Linda Griego currently serves on the board of directors of media and entertainment conglomerate Paramount Global. She previously served on the boards of AECOM, Granite Construction, American Funds, Southwest Water Company, City National Bank; and the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco (Los Angeles director). She is the founder of the nonprofit MLK Health & Wellness Community Development Corporation focused on healthcare infrastructure projects on the MLK Medical Campus in South Los Angeles. As President/CEO of Griego Enterprises for 30 years, she built and operated restaurants/bakeries in Los Angeles, including real estate development of a historical landmark firehouse, Engine Co. No. 28, into offices and restaurants.



## **SANDRA MAGAÑA CUELLAR**

### **Director of Government Relations for the Inland Empire, Charter Communications | HOPE Board Member**

Sandra Magaña Cuellar is the Director of Government Relations for the Inland Empire at Charter Communications. She oversees federal, state, and local government regulations in addition to community efforts and political outreach. Sandra has donated her time on the boards of organizations such as the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, Riverside Chamber of Commerce, and Congressman Ken Calvert's Science, Technology and Education Partnership (STEP). Sandra received her master's degree in Communications Management with an emphasis in Telecommunications policy from USC.



**MARÍA DEL CARMEN ALANÍS**  
**Former Chief Magistrate of Mexico's Electoral Court  
and a champion of electoral justice in Latin America**

María del Carmen Alanís Figueroa is an International Consultant and President of DEMOS, a Politics, Government & Strategic Intelligence Consulting firm. She is also President of 12624 Consultoras, Gender equality and women's political rights Consultancy and FEMSA Senior Consultant on public affairs and communications. Skilled in Sustainability strategies from a capacity-building standpoint, she has almost 35 years of national & international public, political and social first level affairs experience. With a passion for risks & actors mapping through a strategic intelligence methodology under dynamic contexts, María del Carmen is specialized in underrepresented groups & persons' rights, such as women, indigenous, disabled, refugees, rural, LGBTQ+. She holds a Juris Doctor (J.D) from UNAM Mexico and M.Sc in Comparative Government, LSE. Until November 2016, Magistrate and 4 years Chief Justice of the Electoral Court of Mexico (Federal). More than 30 years dedicated to public service.

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**JUDGE WENDY AVILA**  
**Superior Court of Kern County**

Judge Wendy Avila was appointed by Governor Newsom in 2020 as the first Latina to hold the position of appointed Judge in Kern County Superior Court. She brings over 20 years of experience. Judge Avila has swerved as Senior Assistant Inspector General of the Office of the Inspector General since 2017. She was an Adjunct Lecturer at Cal State Bakersfield from 2008 to 2016, and served as Deputy District Attorney at the Kern County District Attorney's Office from 1999 to 2017. Judge Avila earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law. Throughout her life, she found ways to contribute to her community including being a founder of Latina Leaders, a local nonprofit organization with a goal to provide local young women leadership.

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**MARIBETH ANNAGÜEY**  
**Managing Partner at Annagüey McCann LLP**  
**HOPE Board 1st Chair - Elect**

Maribeth Annagüey's practice involves class action defense, real estate disputes, Talent Agencies Act disputes, and matters involving breach of contract, misappropriation of trade secrets, fraud, securities violations, and defamation. Prior to her current role as Managing Partner at Annagüey McCann, she was Partner at Ellis George Cipollone O'Brien Annagüey where she lead the firm's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee. Under her leadership, the firm initiated cultural events and educational programs. She also strategized ways to respond to the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles Call to Action Challenge of promoting the advancement of women.



## **JULISSA GUTIERREZ**

### **Chief Diversity Officer, Office of The Governor, State of New York**

Julissa Gutierrez is a public servant, workforce equity champion, and diversity and inclusion practitioner. As New York State's Chief Diversity Officer, Ms. Gutierrez designs and implements statewide programs and initiatives increasing diversity within the State's workforce and the participation of women and people of color in all areas of State Government. She has led the State's efforts to raise the minimum wage, implement the strongest Paid Family Leave program in the nation, pass GENDA, and more. Most recently, she was recognized for her efforts to improve the lives of all New Yorkers in amNY Metro and PoliticsNY's Power Women list and was listed in City & State's 2022 Power of Diversity: Latino 100 List. In May 2021, Ms. Gutierrez was named #1 on City & State New York's MWBE Power 50 list for her contributions to minority and women-owned business enterprises. A proud Queens-born Colombiana, Ms. Gutierrez is a Board Member of the New Immigrants Community Empowerment, a Trustee for the Queens Public Library, and a Board Member of the Queens Public Library Foundation.

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## **MELISSA CABELLO HAVRDA**

### **Former Councilmember, San Antonio**

Melissa Cabello Havrda was elected as the San Antonio District 6 Councilwoman on June 8, 2019. While on Council, Melissa served as the Chair of the City's Public Safety, Transportation and Mobility, and Municipal Court Committees. She also served as a member of the Governance, Investment, and Municipal Utility Committees. Additionally, she served as the first Latina Chair of the Alamo Area Mobility Planning Organization (AAMPO) and the San Antonio Fire and Police Pension Board. Melissa is a proud native of District 6 in San Antonio, Texas and attended Taft High School. She earned her B.A. majoring in political science from St. Mary's University, a Juris Doctorate from St. Mary's University School of Law, and an MBA from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

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## **Xiomara Peña**

### **Vice President, HOPE**

Xiomara Peña is a passionate mission-driven leader with over a decade of experience and a keen interest in power building efforts to restore power to community members who have been locked out of wealth building opportunities through policy and programmatic interventions. As Vice President at HOPE, Xiomara works to lead and inspire a team to achieve organizational goals. Her role provides strategic insight in collaboration with the CEO and other senior leaders to execute HOPE's strategic plan, inclusive of overseeing national and regional expansion of HOPE's programs. She develops targeted engagement strategies for various stakeholders including community leaders, funders, partners, elected officials and others.



## **PATRICIA GONZALEZ**

### **Vice President of the American Society of Mexico**

Patricia Gonzalez is the Vice-President of the American Society of Mexico and holds independent board positions at the Women Economic Forum Iberoamerica, British Chamber, AFEECI, and Education for Mexico, among others. She also advises various companies and NOGs. She is the Global G100 wing in Human Resources and Talent Development. She has been a distinguished figure in the realm of Tax and Legal Services, with a 30-year tenure at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), where she notably became the first female and the youngest partner in the history of PwC Latin America. Her groundbreaking career at PwC saw her leading pivotal areas such as Tax Policy, Financial Services, Client Services, and Corporate Responsibility, underpinning her deep expertise in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) aspects. During her prestigious career, Patricia held a seat on the PwC Global Board for six years—a role limited to only 16 members globally—representing over 10,000 partners and participating during a period when PwC reported earnings of about \$41.3 billion US. Her role on this board marked a significant milestone as the first Latin-American woman to hold such a position. She has a CPA from EBC University, with additional studies from prestigious institutions such as the University of Austin, Texas, and the University of London, Ontario. Her accolades include recognition as one of the 10 women who significantly impacted finance in Mexico, the Mexican Senate recognized her as one of the most critical Women in Mexico, and she received the “Yacatecutli” award from the American Chamber of Commerce in Mexico. Patricia has been recognized multiple times by the Women Economic Forum as a Women of the Decade.

GET INVOLVED

## PAY IT FORWARD. JOIN THE FRIENDS OF HOPE NETWORK.

Donate today and join HOPE's community of dedicated supporters!



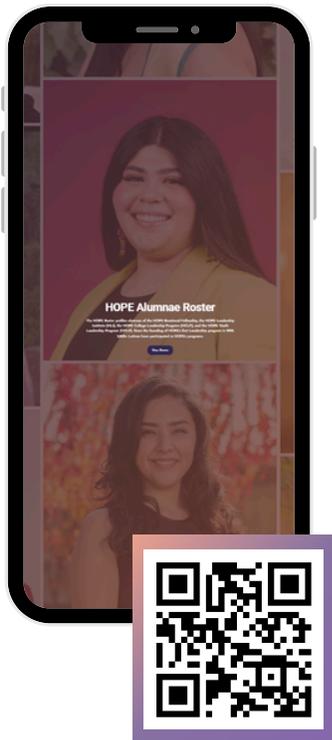
92% of all donations to HOPE go directly toward funding HOPE's Latina Leadership programs.

Sign up or renew your membership today for an exclusive reward!

[www.latinas.org/donate](http://www.latinas.org/donate)

## STAY CONNECTED. STAY VISIBLE

Update your profile in the HOPE Alumnae Roster!



### New to the Roster?

Are you a HOPE alumna without a profile or a recent program graduate? Create your profile today at [roster.latinas.org/join](http://roster.latinas.org/join).

### Update My Profile

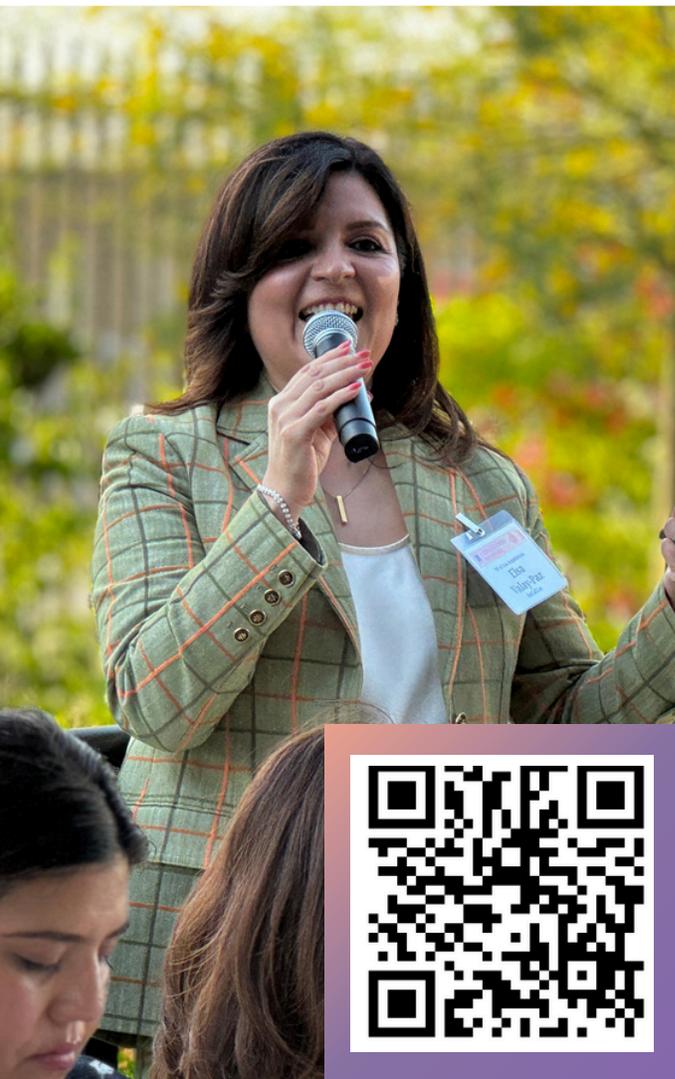
Started a new job? Switched careers? New headshot? Keep your profile fresh so we can celebrate your achievements and stay in touch. Log in at [roster.latinas.org/login](http://roster.latinas.org/login) and click "My Profile" in the top menu to edit.

Visit our Roster Help Center for step-by-step guides and FAQs at [bit.ly/HOPERosterHelp](http://bit.ly/HOPERosterHelp).

Explore the Roster Platform  
at [roster.latinas.org](http://roster.latinas.org) or scan the QR code.

## ADVOCATE FOR HOPE - CORPORATE CONTRIBUTION PLEDGE

Many companies offer matching gifts, volunteer time, or employee engagement programs. Take the pledge and unlock support for HOPE through your employer.



### Enroll in Matching Gifts

Double your impact—see if your company will match your donations to HOPE.

### Invite HOPE to Speak

Host HOPE at your ERG, affinity group, or corporate event to share our mission and work.

### Learn and Lunch

Join us at HOPE HQ to share your expertise. Our Lunch & Learn series invites HOPE Alumnae to speak with staff about their work, leadership journey, and insights. Offering a chance for staff to learn directly from leaders in our network.

### Refer Volunteers & Participants

Know someone who would benefit from or contribute to HOPE programs?  
Send them our way.

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