



### **Ricardo Meza**

Ricardo represents clients in banking, construction and health care fields. He serves as outside general counsel to Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness, an \$85 million-dollar federally qualified health center with multiple Illinois locations. At Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness, Ricardo also serves as a key business and strategic advisor to the President and CEO where he provides advice to his client on a variety of businesses related matters.

Ricardo has extensive litigation and trial experience having served as a federal prosecutor for over 10 years. Specifically, he served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois and the Western District of Texas and had tried over 34 federal trials, nearly all of which were to a jury. His experience and insight give him a deep context for his work, which includes handling sensitive business and litigation related issues. He has also managed and directed high-level investigations, which provide him a unique and strategic business perspective for corporations, healthcare entities, universities, non-profit organizations and public entities.

In 2010, Ricardo was senate confirmed as Illinois' executive inspector general (EIG) and served in that position until 2015. As EIG, General, Ricardo served as head of the independent Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies of the Illinois Governor (OEIG) where he ran all operations, including administrative and fiscal. At the OEIG, he oversaw and supervised a staff of over 75 employees, including all assistant inspectors general and investigators.

Before his tenure as EIG, Ricardo spent five years as Midwest Regional Counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, a leading Latino civil rights organization where he led the office's litigation and public policy matters. Ricardo has also served as an assistant attorney general II in Texas where he represented the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts in complex civil tax litigation matters, as well as in sales, use and franchise tax matters. Ricardo also served as a law clerk for the late Honorable Wendell C. Radford, US Magistrate Judge for the ED of Texas.

### **Awards & Recognition**

- John Marshall Law School, *Distinguished Service Award*, 2012
- Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus *Service Award*, 2011
- Chicago Bar Association, *Vanguard Award*, 2010
- Cook County State's Attorney Office, *El Humanitario Award*, 2008
- Palatine High School, *Distinguished Graduate Award for Community Service*, 2002
- United States General Services Administration, Inspector General's *Honor Award*, 2000

### **Professional/Community Involvement**

- Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, Hearing Board Member
- Northwestern Memorial Foundation, Board Member
- Chicago Inn of Courts, Master of the Bench
- Leadership Greater Chicago, 2007 Fellow
- Illinois State University Attorney Advisory Council
- Omni Youth Services, Board Member 2002-2010



*A certified minority owned business enterprise.*

- Chicago Health Connection, 2000-2008
- Volunteer Wrestling Coach, Hanks High School, El Paso, TX, 1996-1997

### Select Publications

- Author, “So You’ve Received an Anonymous Complaint – Why You Shouldn’t Just Ignore it,” *The Compliance & Ethics Blog*, December 2015
- Co-Author, “the Deflategate ‘play’: Investigations must stay independent,” *The Compliance & Ethics Blog*, September 2015

### Select Presentations

- American Bar Foundation, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, “The Future of Latinos in the United States: Law, Opportunity, and Mobility,” June 2016
- Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (Chicago Chapter), “Investigative Tips from a Former IG,” March 2016
- Northwestern University School of Law: “Civil Rights/Impact Litigation,” October 2015
- Campaign for Political Reform “State Leaders: Their Vision for Illinois” Luncheon, 2015

### Select Media Interviews and Editorials

- Interview, “Children’s COVID-19 Quarantine Center in Midlothian May Continue to Operate, Judge Rules, Chicago Tribune, May 28, 2020
- Interview “Wheeling changes policy after Argiris’ spending, SUV use questioned,” *Daily Herald*, February 21, 2017
- Interview, “Ex-watchdog keeping eye on state government,” *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, October 13, 2015.
- Interview with Ricardo Meza, “Dennis Hastert's next move: Plea deal or fight the charges,” *Daily Herald*, June 11, 2015
- Editorial, “Jim Dey: Inspector general’s report outlines a litany of IDOT hiring violations,” *News-Gazette*, August 31, 2014
- Editorial, “Anatomy of an Illinois Patronage Scandal,” *Chicago Tribune*, August 29, 2014
- Interview, “Meza strives for Transparency,” *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*, Vol. 158, No. 35, February 21, 2012
- Editorial, “\$18 Million, Little Oversight,” *Chicago Tribune*, October 20, 2011

### Contact information:

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