

The LGBTQ+ Bar
2023 Conference and Career Fair
Continuing Legal Education: Being a Latinx LGBTQ+ Attorney
Wednesday, July 26, 2023
2:15 PM to 3:45 PM

Speakers

Luiz Miranda (Speaker)

Mayer Brown LLP

Omar Gonzalez-Pagan (Speaker)

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.

Anya Marino (Speaker)

Harvard Law School

Malita Picasso (Speaker)

American Civil Liberties Union Foundation

Mario Treto (Speaker)

State of Illinois

Topics and Time

Defining the role of Latinx and LGBTQ representation in the law from a historical perspective and exploring the role intersectionality has in further emphasizing key issues of import.

Discussion By:

Omar Gonzalez-Pagan

Anya Marino

Malita Picasso

Mario Treto, Jr.

2:15 PM - 2:30 PM

Perspectives, Challenges, and Opportunities for the Latinx LGBTQ+ Big Law Firm Attorney

Discussion By:

Luiz Miranda

2:30 PM - 2:45 PM

Perspectives, Challenges, and Opportunities for the Latinx LGBTQ+ Government Attorney and Public Official

Discussion By:

Mario Treto, Jr.

2:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Perspectives, Challenges, and Opportunities for the Latinx LGBTQ+ Academic Attorney

Discussion By:

Anya Marino

3:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Perspectives, Challenges, and Opportunities for the Latinx LGBTQ+ National Advocacy Organization Attorney

Discussion By:

Malita Picasso

Omar Gonzalez-Pagan

3:15 PM - 3:30 PM

Intersectionality of Government, Big Law Firm, Academia, and National Advocacy Organizations and the Opportunity that Arises to Move the Needle Forward for the LGBTQ+ Community

Discussion By:

Luiz Miranda

Omar Gonzalez-Pagan

Anya Marino

Malita Picasso

Mario Treto, Jr.

3:30 PM - 3:45 PM

Description and Goals

As our LGBTQ+ communities remain under attack from legislatures across the country and in the courts, we must continue to center the most marginalized including people of color, immigrants, and TGNCNB people. As Latinx attorneys who represent multiple identities, work experiences, and beliefs, the panelists will engage in a conversation on what it means to be a Latinx LGBTQ+ attorney. We each have our own stories and hope to engage the audience on legal issues impacting our communities including civil rights, immigration, and health care. The legal system itself is rampant with racism and xenophobia that harms Latinx people and our families. The panelists will also discuss their experiences working in government, in big law, as academics, and at national LGBTQ+ organizations. This session will also discuss how employers' DEI programs can support their Latinx staff. Importantly, we hope this is a space where our audience members and panelists are able to bring their full selves to this conversation.

Faculty Contact Information

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Full Panelists Biographies

Luiz Miranda
Mayer Brown LLP

Luiz (he/him) is a senior associate in the Intellectual Property group of Mayer Brown LLP in their Chicago office, and is a registered patent attorney at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). His practice includes a broad range of intellectual property applications, including patent litigation before federal courts, trademark and patent prosecution and disputes before the USPTO. Luiz is the co-head of Mayer Brown's Latino/a Affinity Group in Chicago, and an active member of the firm's LGBT Affinity Group. Prior to joining the firm, Luiz was a volunteer Law Clerk for the Hon. Darrin P. Gayles, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

Luiz has been an active member of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) and prior member of the LGBT Bar. Luiz is an alumni of the HNBA Intellectual Property Law Institute program (IPLI), and is currently serving as the HNBA Young Lawyers Division's Region IX Representative and the treasurer of the HNBA LGBT Division.

Omar Gonzalez-Pagan
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.

Omar Gonzalez-Pagan is Counsel and the Health Care Strategist at Lambda Legal, the oldest and largest national legal organization committed to advancing the civil rights of LGBTQ people and people living with HIV. He has played a critical role in advancing the rights of LGBTQ people under the U.S. Constitution and federal civil rights laws, including in education, employment, health care, and housing. Gonzalez-Pagan was instrumental in achieving two pivotal victories for LGBTQ people before the U.S. Supreme Court—*Obergefell v. Hodges* and *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*. As Health Care Strategist, Gonzalez-Pagan has been a leading advocate for the Affordable Care Act as it applies to LGBTQ people. He serves as counsel in *Doe v. Abbott* and *PFLAG v. Abbott*, challenging Texas's efforts to redefine "child abuse" to encompass gender-affirming care for transgender youth, and in challenges to exclusions of coverage for gender-affirming care, including *Dekker v. Weida*, *C.P. v. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois*, *Kadel v. Folwell*, and *Simonson v. Oswego County*. Gonzalez-Pagan has served as lead counsel in *Arroyo*

González v. Rosselló Nevares, Foster v. Andersen, MHW v. Cuomo, and Campos v. Cohen, where he secured the right of transgender people born in Puerto Rico, Kansas, New York, and North Carolina to obtain accurate birth certificates matching their gender identity. Gonzalez-Pagan received his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Cornell University.

Anya Marino

Clinical Instructor & Lecturer on Law
Harvard Law School

Anya A. Marino (she/her) instructs Harvard Law School's LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic, which engages in litigation, legislative and policy advocacy, and public education on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community. With the help of her students, Anya and her colleagues aim to shape the future of LGBTQ+ advocacy by focusing on advancing the rights of LGBTQ+ people holistically. Anya previously served as the Deputy Legal Director for the ACLU of Florida, is the first openly transgender woman of color to serve in any senior attorney position throughout the ACLU's federation of national and affiliate offices, and is the first openly transgender woman of color to teach at Harvard Law School.

Malita Picasso

American Civil Liberties Union Foundation

Malita (she/her) is a staff attorney at the ACLU LGBT & HIV Project where she advocates on behalf of transgender and nonbinary people through litigation and public education. Through her litigation, she has challenged restrictions on the ability of transgender and nonbinary people to access accurate birth certificates, to obtain gender-affirming health care and insurance coverage for such care, to work in environment free from discrimination and harassment, to receive appropriate medical care and services while incarcerated, and to use the restroom that aligns with their gender identity.

Prior to becoming a staff attorney, Malita completed a two-year Skadden fellowship with the Project. She has also contributed to the work of the ACLU outside of the LGBT & HIV context, and was significantly involved in the organization's efforts to seek the release of medically vulnerable people from ICE detention centers in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Malita sits on the board of the National Trans Bar Association, a national bar association by and for transgender legal professionals and cisgender legal professionals who care about trans rights. She has spent nearly a decade working in various capacities in the social justice legal field and fighting for the rights of trans and nonbinary people, immigrant populations, communities of color, and people otherwise impacted by poverty. When she is not working, she spends her time loving being trans, adoring her dog, hiking in and exploring the national parks, or cooking unnecessarily delicious meals.

Mario Treto, Jr.

State of Illinois

Mario Treto, Jr. (he/him) was appointed by Illinois Governor JB Pritzker to serve as the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation in 2019. In this role, Secretary Treto oversees the State of Illinois' lead regulatory agency charged with strengthening consumer protections through the licensing of over 1.2 million professionals and the regulation of banking and financial services. Under his leadership, the agency has implemented diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives for the advancement of all Illinoisans, witnessed departmental efficiencies and improvements, updated and modernized professional regulatory frameworks, reduced barriers to licensure in the State of Illinois, and increased license portability for veterans and their spouses.

A nationally recognized lawyer and government official, Secretary Treto serves on notable and prominent civic boards and committees, including being appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to the Supreme Court Committee on Professional Responsibility. He recently served as the Board Chair of Howard Brown Health, the largest LGBT organization in the Midwest and federally qualified health center serving 30,000 patients through 12 clinics. Mario has received national recognition from various organizations, including the International Municipal Lawyers Association, the Hispanic National Bar Association, and the National LGBT Bar.