

BEYOND BORDERS

Immigration & the Texas Economy

Mexico City | July 9-11, 2025



ESTD 1980
THE TEXAS LYCEUM

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS
texaslyceum.org

CAMPAIGN
FOR CIVILITY.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IMMIGRATION AND THE TEXAS ECONOMY

Welcome to Mexico City and our 2025 summer meeting – ***Beyond Borders: Immigration & the Texas Economy!***

This marks the first time since 2019 the Texas Lyceum has held a conference outside of the U.S. and I couldn't be more excited to be visiting our neighbor and border partner, the great country of Mexico!

As Mexico is the Lone Star State's largest trading partner, our conference will explore this unique relationship and its impact on our mutual economies. At the same time, immigration and our shared border continues to be a complex issue and among the most concerning to Texans, according to our own Texas Lyceum Poll.

My hope is we will engage in meaningful dialogue to better understand these important issues in order to help navigate and foster discussion and policy back home.

As we continue to celebrate the Lyceum's 45th anniversary in 2025, the **Campaign for Civility** is in full swing - calling on elected officials and all citizens to adopt the Lyceum's core values and principles at the cornerstone of our democracy:

- **To engage in civil discourse on critical public policy issues**
- **To seek to understand before being understood**
- **To exercise the ability to disagree without being disagreeable**

We hope you will practice these values today and always.

As this anniversary has also been dubbed the **Year of the Alumni**, we honor the hundreds of accomplished alumni who have shaped the Lyceum since 1982, with special thanks to our meeting **Honorary Alumni Chairs The Hon. Marc Veasey ('08), LeRoy Cavazos ('18), Roberto Coronado ('19), Estrella Escobar ('07), Teclo Garcia ('09), Nelson Balido ('06) and Johnny Sutton ('06).**

Today's meeting would not be possible without our generous sponsors and our amazing co-chairs, **Directors Lizzy de la Garza Putegnat ('24), Monica Perez ('20) and Mario Porras ('21),** along with our association managers **Logan Beszterda and Marine Bibes.**

Thank you!

All my best,



Crayton Webb '18
2025 President



MEETING CHAIRS' MESSAGE

IMMIGRATION AND THE TEXAS ECONOMY

¡Bienvenidos a la Ciudad de México!

We are thrilled to welcome you to “**Beyond Borders: Immigration and the Texas Economy.**” Mexico City’s rich history, welcoming spirit, vibrant culture, stunning architecture, and world-class cuisine make this the perfect setting for our landmark event!

Mexico is Texas’s largest trading partner and a vital contributor to the state’s economy. Texas-Mexico trade accounts for 10.4% of Texas’s GDP — about \$281 billion. Trade between Mexico and Texas has created over 8 million jobs, many of which are concentrated in Texas. Our shared prosperity is undeniable. However, according to the Texas Lyceum Poll, Texans’ biggest concerns for over a decade have been immigration/border security and the economy.

This conference was born from a desire to better understand the issue and address those concerns through respectful, civil discourse. **Beyond Borders** will explore the complexities of immigration and border policy, while examining the economic ties that bind Texas and Mexico. We hope this will be a catalyst for deep discussions leading to strategies and solutions that transcend politics, ensure security, and honor the aspirations of communities on both sides of the border.

Throughout the next few days, we will take a deep dive into topics that are not only dominating the news but are critical to Texas’s security and prosperity. You’ll hear from public officials, policy experts, and industry leaders offering unique perspectives grounded in experience. We are excited to kick off our conference at the U.S. Ambassador’s residence and honored to welcome former President of Mexico Vicente Fox as a distinguished voice among our renowned speakers.

We hope this will be an insightful, engaging, and unforgettable experience where we’ll be enlightened by diverse perspectives, inspired by new ideas, and connected more deeply on these significant topics. We want to thank our amazing sponsors, speakers, and committee for making this possible.

Thank you for joining us as we work together—beyond borders—toward a more prosperous future for Texas, Mexico, and our shared region!

¡Abrazos Fuertes!



MONICA PEREZ
'20

MEETING CHAIR



MARIO PORRAS
'21

MEETING CHAIR



LIZZY DE LA
GARZA PUTEGNAT
'24

MEETING CHAIR

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INFORMING THE FUTURE: INSTABILITY & INNOVATION IN MEDIA

Dallas | September 18-20

PERCEPTIONS, REALITY, & THE FUTURE OF TEXAS LAW ENFORCEMENT

Victoria | November 13-15

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& LIZZY DE LA GARZA PUTEGNAT '24

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**WEDNESDAY
JULY 09, 2025**

1:30 PM — **Castillo Excursion**

5:00 PM — **Load Buses for the Ambassador's Residence**

U.S Embassy

6:00 PM — **Welcome Reception at the U.S Ambassador's Residence**

6:30 PM — **Reception and Fireside Chat**

Introduction: Nelson Balido, Border Commerce and Security Council / Balido and Assoc.; *Lyceum Class of 2006*

Speaker: The Honorable Ronald D. Johnson, U.S Ambassador to Mexico

If anyone gets in after the bus leaves. They can not bring bags to the Ambassador's Residence. They can Uber to the address below.

Address: Paseo de la Reforma No. 2414, Col. Lomas Altas, CDMX

Dress: Business Casual to Business (no jeans, shorts, flip flops, or tennis shoes)

8:30 PM — **Shuttle to the Hotel**

Four Seasons

9:00 PM — **Hospitality Suite**

**THURSDAY
JULY 10, 2025**

Four Seasons

8:00 AM — **Breakfast for Programming Attendees**

8:30 AM — **Programming at the Four Seasons**

8:40 AM — **Border Dual Perspectives: Immigration at the Crossroads of Security and Opportunity**

Moderator: A.J. Rodriguez, Texas 2036; *Lyceum Class of 2007*

Speakers:

- Dr. Steven Camarota, Center for Immigration Studies (CIS)
- Charles Foster, Foster LLP

9:30 AM — **Morning Excursion (Non-Programming Attendees)**

9:40 AM — **Immigration's Ripple Effect: Examining Impacts on Education, Healthcare & the Workforce**

Moderator: Teclo J. Garcia, MEDC; *Lyceum Class of 2009*

Speakers:

- Education: Celina Moreno, Intercultural Development Research Association
- Healthcare: Monica Vargas-Mahar, Carondelet Health Network; *Lyceum Class of 2018*
- Workforce: Alfredo Corchado, Puente News Collaborative

10:40 AM — **Fellow Session: Trade, Wages, and Regional Growth: How Mexico's Economic Geography Shapes Shared Opportunity**

Moderator: Dr. Victor Sàenz, UT Austin; *Lyceum Class of 2020*

Speaker:

- Colleen Goggin, Bush School of Government & Public Service at Texas A&M

11:10 AM — **Keynote Speaker**

Moderator : C. LeRoy Cavazos-Reyna; *Lyceum Class of 2018*

Speaker: The Honorable Antonio Garza, Former U.S Ambassador to Mexico

Dress: Business casual

12:00 PM — **Lunch**

12:30 PM — **Break**

National Art Museum - MUNAL

2:00 PM — *Shuttle to the National Art Museum (MUNAL)*

2:15 PM — *MUNAL - National Art Museum*

3:00 PM — *Guided Visit*

Four Seasons

5:45 PM — *Cocktail Reception*

7:30 PM — *Fireside Chat*

Introduction: Constance R. Wannamaker, Wannamaker Law PLLC

Moderator: Crayton Webb, Sunwest Communication, *Lyceum Class of 2018, Texas Lyceum 2025 President*

Speaker:

- President Vicente Fox, Former President of Mexico

Dress: Business casual

St. Regis Hotel

9:00 PM — *Shuttle to Hospitality Suite*

9:30 PM — *Hospitality Suite*

Address: Av. P.º de la Reforma 439, Cuauhtémoc, 06500 Ciudad de México, México

FRIDAY JULY 11, 2025

Four Seasons

8:30 AM — *Breakfast - Programming Attendees Only*

9:00 AM — *Morning Excursions (Non-Programming Attendees)*

9:30 AM — *Morning Keynote Speaker*

Speaker: Dr. Duncan Wood, Hurst International Consulting

10:15 AM — ***Borderonomics: The Past, Present, and Future of Texas-Mexico Commerce***

Moderator: Roberto Coronado, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; *Lyceum Class of 2019*

Speakers:

- Carmen Lilia Canturosas, Mayor of Nuevo Laredo
- John Cowen, Mayor of Brownsville

11:15 AM — ***Cross-Border Currents: Industry Leaders on the Frontlines of Texas-Mexico Trade***

Moderator: Nelson Balido, Border Commerce and Security Council / Balido and Assoc; *Lyceum Class of 2006*

Speakers:

- Agriculture: Skip Hulett, NatureSweet
- Petroleum: Steven Putegnat, Titan Fuel
- Trade Law: Raymundo Vazquez, CCN
- Manuel Padilla Jr., MP Eagle Consulting

12:15 PM — ***Beyond Borders: Shaping the Next Chapter of the Texas-Mexico Future - Bridging Security, Opportunity, and Prosperity***

Moderator: Johnny Sutton, Ashcroft Sutton Reyes, LLC; *Lyceum Class of 2006*

Speaker:

- The Honorable Eduardo Medina Mora, Former Justice, Supreme Court of Mexico; Former Attorney General of Mexico; Former Mexico Ambassador to the U.S., United Kingdom, and United Nations

12:45 PM — ***Lunch***

Palacios de Bellas Artes

2:00 PM — ***Tour of Palacio de Bellas Artes***

4:45 PM — ***Shuttle back to the hotel***

The Four Seasons

5:30 PM — *Shuttle to the Salon Dinners - Must be pre-registered*

9:30PM — *Hospitality Suite - at the Four Seasons Bar*

**SATURDAY
JULY 12, 2025**

Must be pre-registered to attend the below programming

Please meet in the lobby of the Four Seasons for all Excursions.

7:45 AM — *Teotihuacan - Pyramid Tour + Lunch*

8:45 AM — *San Angel and Market Visit*

8:45 AM — *Coyoacan & Casa Azul Tour*

8:45 AM — *Tour Museo de Antropologia*



NELSON BALIDO

CHAIRMAN

**BORDER COMMERCE AND
SECURITY COUNCIL**

LYCEUM CLASS OF 2006

Nelson Balido drives results in diverse government, politics, private industry, and non-profit arenas. As one of the leading authorities on the U.S. border for trade, travel, and security issues, he leads Balido and Associates, a strategic management consultancy, and founded the Border Commerce and Security Council in 2013.

Before assuming his current role, he was the President of the Border Trade Alliance and a presidential pick to lead the private sector division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He also served on the Homeland Security Advisory Council, where he was awarded the department's highest civilian award – the Outstanding Public Service Medal.

In 2021, he was appointed as a consultant to the DHS Undersecretary of Intelligence, and in 2023, he was appointed as a special advisor in the office of the Commissioner for Customs and Border Protection.

Nelson has worked closely with the U.S., Canada, and Mexico governments at every level for years by advocating for policy initiatives designed to improve cross-border affairs, trade and security relations, energy reform, and cultural understanding. Nelson is also a United States Navy Reserve officer with Special Operations Command North – U.S. Northern Command.



DR. STEVEN CAMAROTA

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

**CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION
STUDIES**

Dr. Steven Camarota is the Director of Research at the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), focusing on the impacts of immigration in the U.S.

He promotes informed debates on immigration reform by providing data to policymakers and the public. Since 1999, he has testified before Congress 30 times regarding immigration's economic and demographic effects. His research has appeared in major publications and has been cited by the National Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Dr. Camarota holds a master's in political science from the University of Pennsylvania and a doctorate in public policy analysis from the University of Virginia.



C. LEROY CAVAZOS-REYNA, MPA

FOUNDER AND CEO

LOCALISM, INC.

LYCEUM CLASS OF 2018

C. LeRoy Cavazos-Reyna is a nationally recognized strategist and public affairs leader with expertise in government relations, cross-border diplomacy, and inclusive economic development. He is the Founder and CEO of Localism, Inc., a certified Hispanic-, LGBTQ+-, and Disability-owned consulting firm based in San Antonio, Texas, focused on empowering minority-owned businesses and nonprofits through policy, procurement, and stakeholder engagement.

He also serves as Senior Advisor to Public Private Strategies, where he leads national and global initiatives to support small businesses and equitable economic growth.

Previously, LeRoy was Vice President of Government and International Affairs for the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC), where he helped revitalize the organization during the COVID-19 pandemic and led its first-ever international office opening in Mexico City. He has also held senior roles at Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages/Arca Continental, the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SAHCC) and MHP Salud, where he led more than ten international trade missions to LATAM, Europe, and the Middle East.

An alumnus of the Texas Lyceum and a strong advocate for U.S.-Mexico collaboration, LeRoy served on the Texas Border Coalition, San Antonio Mexico Friendship Council, and numerous civic boards. He holds a Master of Public Administration and dual bachelor's degrees from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, and an advanced leadership certification from TCU's Neeley School of Business.

He resides in San Antonio, Texas, with his husband Edgar and remains an active voice in civic, policy, and business communities across the globe.



ALFREDO CORCHADO

EDITOR, CORRESPONDENT

PUENTE NEWS
COLLABORATIVE

Alfredo Corchado is an executive editor correspondent at Puente News Collaborative. He is a journalist and author who covers United States policy in Latin America and the U.S.-Mexico border. He was the longtime Mexico border correspondent for The Dallas Morning News, covering issues including migration, Cuba, Mexico's drug cartels, organized crime, and corruption for over two decades.

He began his career at the El Paso Herald-Post and later at The Wall Street Journal and the El Paso Herald-Post.

Corchado, a native of Mexico, is the author of *Homelands: Four Friends, Two Countries*, and *Fate of the Great Mexican-American Migration* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2018) and *Midnight in Mexico* (Penguin Books, 2013).

Corchado has been a visiting fellow at the David Rockefeller Center at Harvard University, a visiting scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center, a recipient of the Lannan Residency Fellowship, a USMEX fellow at the University of California at San Diego, and a Neiman Fellow at Harvard University. He was also an IOP fellow at the University of Chicago. He also won the Maria Moors Cabot and Elijah Parish Lovejoy Awards for Courage in Journalism. In 2023, he was inducted into the National Association of Hispanic Journalists Hall of Fame for his three-plus decades covering the border and Mexico.



ROBERTO CORONADO, PH.D.

*SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
ECONOMIST*

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF
DALLAS

LYCEUM CLASS OF 2019

Roberto Coronado is the senior vice president and senior economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, overseeing community engagement and development.

He fosters partnerships with community and business leaders to shape economic understanding in Texas, southern New Mexico, and northern Louisiana, aiding community development initiatives.

His research focuses on the Mexican economy and U.S.-Mexico economic integration, and he serves as the El Paso Branch regional executive. Coronado is also a board member for several organizations and holds a doctorate in economics from the University of Houston, along with degrees from the University of Texas at El Paso.



JOHN COWEN, JR.

MAYOR

CITY OF BROWNSVILLE

Honorable Mayor John Cowen, Jr. is a dedicated public servant from a family with deep roots in Brownsville.

Elected as City Commissioner At-Large in 2019 and then as Mayor in 2023, he has led initiatives enhancing the city's competitiveness. He is also President of Cowen Group, Ltd., specializing in customs brokerage and real estate.

Mayor Cowen is a sought-after speaker on economic development and serves on multiple boards, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization.

A licensed U.S. Customs Broker, he holds a Business Administration degree from the University of Notre Dame and works to position Brownsville as a business hub.



CHARLES FOSTER

CHAIRMAN

FOSTER LLP

Charles C. Foster is the Chairman of Foster LLP in Houston and has been the Honorary Consul General of Thailand since 1997. A recognized immigration law expert, he represents multinational firms and foreign investors and has received accolades such as Best Lawyer in America and Top 100 attorney in Houston. Charles has a J.D. and undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin and frequently lectures on immigration law.

He has served as a senior immigration policy advisor for Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama and has testified before U.S. Senate and House subcommittees. Charles is involved in multiple organizations, including founding Chairman of the Immigration & Nationality Law Section of the Texas State Bar, and has held leadership roles in various committees and boards.

Notable community contributions include co-chairing several monument advisory boards and serving on various boards related to immigration reform and cultural understanding. He has received numerous awards for his service, including the Asia Society's Roy M. Huffington Award and the National Immigration Forum's Keeper of the American Dream Award. Charles is Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law and is fluent in Spanish.



PRESIDENT VICENTE FOX

FORMER PRESIDENT OF MEXICO

Vicente Fox Quesada was Mexico's 62nd president (2000-2006), the first opposition candidate to win after 72 years of one-party rule. His presidency achieved significant advancements, including a 43% decrease in poverty, a reduction of public debt from \$84.6 to \$54.7 billion, over \$67 billion in reserves, a 354% rise in the stock market, and social reforms benefiting 75.5 million people.

Fox joined the National Action Party (PAN) in the 1980s, served in Congress in 1988, and became governor of Guanajuato in 1995. Before politics, he had a successful career at Coca-Cola, becoming its youngest manager. He holds degrees from Universidad Iberoamericana and Harvard. As Director of the Fox Group, he focuses on agriculture and manufacturing.

He founded the Fox Center to support youth leadership and low-income children and has spoken at over 300 conferences worldwide, advocating for freedom, equality, transparency, leadership, and peace.



TECLO J. GARCIA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MEDC

Mr. Garcia is an economic development and public affairs professional with more than 20 years of leadership and experience in municipal government communications with demonstrated success in advocacy, community affairs, public policy, and marketing.

Before taking the helm in Mission, Teclo led the City of Laredo's Department of Economic Development, where he worked with the private sector to create hundreds of new jobs and billions in new development during his tenure at North America's busiest land port. Additionally, Mr. Garcia was the Director of Government Affairs for the City of McAllen and the Editor in Chief of the Brownsville Herald. Teclo is a United States Air Force veteran - serving as a noncommissioned officer overseas during Desert Storm - and is a graduate of Texas State University-San Marcos.



THE HONORABLE ANTONIO GARZA

*FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR
TO MEXICO, SENIOR
ADVISOR
WHITE & CASE LLP*

Antonio Garza is a Senior Advisor at White & Case LLP in Mexico City and Chairman of Vianovo Ventures. He was the U.S. Ambassador to Mexico from 2002 to 2009. With decades of legal, political, and business experience, Garza advises CEOs, investors, and entrepreneurs on U.S.-Mexico relations and market strategy.

Garza serves on the boards of Canadian Pacific Kansas City, the Greenbrier Companies, the Texas Tribune, Americas Society/Council of the Americas, and the American Chamber of Commerce in Mexico City. He is a recipient of Mexico's highest honor for a foreign national, the Águila Azteca. Garza is a trustee of Southern Methodist University, director of the George W. Bush Foundation, chair of the Bush Center's Advisory Council, member of the Council on Foreign Relations and COMEXI, and former Chairman and President of the Texas Exes alumni association of UT.

Additionally, Garza served as Chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission, Vice Chairman of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, Texas Secretary of State, Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor, and Cameron County Judge. He was also a partner at Bracewell & Patterson. He is a distinguished alumnus of UT Austin and SMU School of Law and is a McCombs Hall of Fame inductee. Garza is a member of the Texas and D.C. Bars and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.



COLLEEN GOGGIN

FELLOW

**BUSH SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
& PUBLIC SERVICE AT TEXAS
A&M UNIVERSITY**

Colleen Goggin has recently completed a Master of International Affairs degree at the Bush School of Government & Public Service with a focus on international development and economic policy. Before her Master's, she earned a BA in International Studies and Political Science, with a minor in Economics, from Texas A&M University.

As an undergraduate, she spent a semester interning for U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions in Washington, D.C., while also working for Texas A&M's Economic Statecraft Program. Colleen has developed strong interests in economic, environmental, and trade policy and aspires to work as a research assistant or policy analyst in these fields.



SKIP HULETT

*NATURESWEET
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER*

Skip Hullett is the Chief Legal Officer at NatureSweet, a leading controlled environment agriculture company and top snacking tomato brand in North America, known for the Cherub and Glory lines.

NatureSweet emphasizes vertical integration and positive impacts on communities, employing nearly 10,000 people in Mexico and the US to improve agricultural workers' lives. Skip has a strong legal background, having served as chief legal counsel for fast-growing companies, a state district court judge, and founder of a law firm.

He gained recognition early in his career and was appointed by the Texas Governor as a judge. Joining NatureSweet in 2018, he has led initiatives like B-Corp Certification, making it the largest CEA company to achieve this. Active in the produce industry, he holds positions with several organizations, including the International Fresh Produce Association and the Controlled Environment Agriculture Alliance.

Skip is a graduate of Lamar University and Texas Tech University School of Law and is a member of the State Bar of Texas and the Association of Corporate Counsel.



THE HONORABLE RONALD JOHNSON

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO

Ronald Johnson was confirmed by the Senate as Ambassador to Mexico on April 9, 2025. With over 40 years of U.S. government service, he has been an Army officer, intelligence community member, and, most recently, Ambassador to El Salvador.

He served as the CIA's Science and Technology Liaison to U.S. Special Operations Command and as Special Advisor to U.S. Southern Command, working on issues like refugees, counter-narcotics, counterterrorism, human rights, and disease control. Johnson retired as a Colonel after serving in the U.S. Army (1984–1998) and the Alabama Army National Guard (1971–1984).

He holds a B.S. from the University of the State of New York and an M.S. from the National Intelligence University. His awards include an Honorary Doctor of Humanities, the Sue M. Cobb Award for Exemplary Diplomatic Service, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Distinguished Civilian Service Award.



THE HONORABLE EDUARDO MEDINA MORA

SENIOR PARTNER

**BUFETE MEDINA MORA,
ABOGADOS**

Ambassador Eduardo Medina-Mora Icaza has a distinguished 40+ year career in the public and private sectors. He is a Senior Partner at Bufete Medina Mora, leading litigation and advising on mergers, while mentoring executives. He is also a board member of Compusoluciones and an International Commercial Arbitrator.

Previously, he served as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Mexico (2015–2019) and held ambassadorial roles in the U.S. and U.K., enhancing bilateral relations and negotiating security agreements. His cabinet positions included Attorney General, Secretary of Public Security, and Director General of CISEN, contributing to international agreements like the Merida Initiative.

In the private sector, he was Deputy Director of Grupo DESC and advised during NAFTA negotiations. He has extensive experience in international agreements and has lectured on trade, security, and human rights. His publications include translations and co-authored works on international drug policy. Ambassador Medina-Mora has received multiple accolades, including Diplomat of the Year and the Order of Civil Merit. He is a member of the Mexican and American Bar Associations and is bilingual in Spanish and English.



CELINA MORENO

PRESIDENT AND CEO

**INTERCULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH
ASSOCIATION**

Celina Moreno is CEO of IDRA, a non-profit dedicated to equal educational opportunity that strengthens education through educator training, research, policy, and student leadership programs.

Celina previously directed policy and litigation for MALDEF's Southwest office, where she successfully represented DREAMers to defend DACA and the Texas DREAM Act and represented Bexar County and several cities against Texas' Senate Bill 4 (2017).

She co-chaired TRUST – a coalition of business, faith, civil rights and law enforcement leaders focused on immigrants' rights. Celina received a master's from Harvard Kennedy School, a bachelor's from UT-Austin, and a law degree from the University of Houston.



MANUEL PADILLA JR.

CEO AND PRINCIPAL

MP EAGLE CONSULTING

Manuel Padilla Jr. is the CEO, founder, and principal of MP Eagle Consulting, specializing in innovative security solutions. With over 40 years of federal service, he has a deep understanding of security threats and uses unconventional strategies for comprehensive protection. His expertise in risk assessments and strategic planning has established his reputation for delivering tailored solutions.

Previously, Padilla held prestigious roles in Customs and Border Protection (CBP), including Senior Advisor to the Commissioner, where he coordinated border security efforts with Mexico and Central America. He also served as Executive Assistant Commissioner for Operations Support and Chief of Law Enforcement Operations, overseeing 22 Border Patrol sectors. In 2018, he was appointed Director of Joint Task Force-West under the Department of Homeland Security.

Throughout his career, Padilla initiated various programs, including cross-component operations and international engagement strategies. He is a graduate of the CBP Senior Executive Service and received the FY2024 Presidential Rank Award.



STEVEN PUTEGNAT

PRESIDENT - FUEL OPERATIONS

TITAN FUEL

Steven Putegnat is the President of Fuel Operations at Titan Fuel, a maritime logistics and fuel export company. In 2017, he founded Titan Fuel Terminals at the Port of Harlingen, Texas, which is dedicated to exporting fuel to Mexico. Putegnat was born and raised in Brownsville, Texas, into two of the city's founding pioneer families. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1999 and has worked in many industries, including shrimping, agriculture, construction, transportation, maritime, and oil and gas.

Before Titan Fuel, Putegnat worked for Sanford Oil, managing business development in South Texas. He started American Homestead Builders, a residential construction company, and later joined SpawGlass, a general contractor, as a Project Manager and Superintendent. Putegnat served on the Rancho Viejo Volunteer Fire Department for eight years. He also served on the Board of Directors for Outdoor Dreams Foundation, where he shared his passion for family outdoor experiences with children facing life-threatening health conditions. In his free time, he enjoys fishing, hunting, golfing, and spending time with his wife and two daughters.



A.J. RODRIGUEZ

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

**TEXAS 2036
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2007**

Since September 2020, A.J. Rodriguez has served as Executive Vice President of Texas 2036, leading the organization's external engagement, board relations, and overseeing Communications and Data functions.

In his career, he has held a variety of leadership positions in the private, public and non-profit sectors. Prior to joining Texas 2036, he served as Vice President of External Affairs at Zachry Group for close to a decade, where he oversaw the organization's community investment and philanthropic efforts, media relations, government affairs, marketing and branding. A.J. also served as Deputy City Manager for the City of San Antonio, as President & CEO of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Vice President of Public Policy & Advocacy at the San Antonio Chamber.

In 2018, he was appointed Chairman of the Board of the Texas Association of Business and served as the organization's first Latino chairman. A.J. serves as Immediate Past Chairman of the Board of the San Antonio Report, Chairman of the Texas Legislative Conference, and on the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas' Advance Together Steering Committee.

A.J. earned his BBA and MBA from UTSA and was awarded the Alumnus of the Year in 2008.



DR. VICTOR SÁENZ

ASSOCIATE DEAN AND
PROFESSOR

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN,
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2020

Victor B. Sáenz, Ph.D., is a prominent scholar and educator at the University of Texas at Austin, serving as Professor and Associate Dean for Student Success. He oversees initiatives that improve student support, community partnerships, and faculty development, managing three public school districts to enhance educational opportunities. Dr. Sáenz, a two-time Texas Ex, holds degrees in mathematics and public affairs from UT and a Ph.D. in Higher Education from UCLA.

As a recognized expert in student success and educational policy, he co-founded Project MALES to support Latino students and has authored three books and over 70 publications, cited over 8,000 times. He has presented his research widely, collaborating with various organizations to promote student success nationwide. Dr. Sáenz lives in Austin with his wife Erica and son Victor, dedicated to fostering inclusive educational environments.



JOHNNY SUTTON

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

ASHCROFT SUTTON REYES, LLC
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2006

Johnny Sutton is a former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas and a seasoned trial lawyer with over 65 felony jury trials. He leads the Austin Office of the Ashcroft Law Firm, focusing on internal investigations and white-collar criminal defense.

As U.S. Attorney, Sutton managed a large office covering 93,000 square miles and directed 43,000 federal prosecutions, achieving significant drug convictions and public corruption cases. He served on the Attorney General's Advisory Committee and led the Justice Transition Team under the Bush-Cheney administration.

Previously, Sutton was the Criminal Justice Policy Director for Texas Governor George W. Bush and a prosecutor in Harris County, where he tried over 60 felony trials with a high conviction rate, including 17 murder cases. A former University of Texas baseball player, he is fluent in Spanish and has dedicated his career to defending the innocent and upholding the law.



MONICA VARGAS-MAHAR

MARKET CEO

CARONDELET HEALTH
NETWORK
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2018

Monica C. Vargas-Mahar, FACHE, MHA, is the Market CEO for Carondelet Health Network and CEO of St. Joseph's Hospital in Tucson, Arizona, providing strategic leadership for multiple facilities. With over 20 years of healthcare administration experience, she joined Tenet Healthcare in 2001 and has held various leadership positions, including CEO at The Hospital of Providence East Campus in El Paso.

Her achievements include expanding hospital capacity and improving patient experiences. Vargas-Mahar is active in the community, serving on boards such as the United Way of Tucson and the Southern Arizona Leadership Council, and she is a Board of Governors member for the American College of Healthcare Executives.

She previously chaired the National Association of Latino Healthcare Executives. Recognized as a "Modern Healthcare Up & Comer," she holds a master's degree in Healthcare Administration from Trinity University and a bachelor's in Business Administration from Loyola Marymount University.



RAYMUNDO VÁZQUEZ

PARTNER

CACHEAUX, CAVAZOS, &
NEWTON

Raymundo is a partner at Cacheaux, Cavazos & Newton, based in San Antonio and Mexico City. His practice focuses on advising financial institutions and institutional borrowers in a wide range of banking and financial transactions, as well as on cross-border M&A transactions involving public and privately held companies across various industries.

He also co-heads the firm's Data Protection Practice Group and has extensive experience in developing and implementing data privacy policies and manuals, addressing cross-border data transfers, and managing data protection and cybersecurity matters, including responding to data breaches.



CONSTANCE R. WANNAMAKER

OWNER AND CEO

C.R. WANNAMAKER LAW
PLLC

Constance Russell Wannamaker is a bilingual immigration attorney in El Paso, Texas, with over 20 years of experience advocating for immigrants' rights.

As the founder of C.R. Wannamaker Law, PLLC, and owner of Stern Law, she is committed to justice for underrepresented communities. Constance offers a range of legal services, including asylum defense and family petitions, with a history of landmark case successes that influence policy reform.

A graduate of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, she also participated in a human rights law program at Oxford University. Balancing her legal career with being a single mother, Constance has founded multiple businesses focused on legal advocacy, solidifying her role as a trusted community leader and advocate for immigrants and their families.



CRAYTON WEBB

OWNER/CEO

SUNWEST COMMUNICATIONS
LYCEUM CLASS OF 2018
TEXAS LYCEUM PRESIDENT

Crayton Webb is the CEO of Sunwest Communications, a leading PR firm in Dallas, recognized as one of the best workplaces. He also co-founded LuncefordWEBB Government Relations and previously served as VP of corporate communications for Mary Kay Inc., where he developed global social impact strategies. Webb has experience as the chief of staff for Dallas Mayor Laura Miller and worked as a broadcast journalist.

He actively contributes to his community through various board memberships, including the Genesis Women's Shelter and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

Webb has received multiple accolades, including recognition in D CEO magazine's "The Dallas 500" and the 2022 Distinguished Leadership Award from the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas.



DR. DUNCAN WOOD

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**HURST INTERNATIONAL
CONSULTING**

Dr. Duncan Wood is the CEO of Hurst International Consulting, a firm specializing in strategic advisory services in the energy sector. With over 30 years of experience, Wood is an expert in US-Mexico relations, North American energy policy, and supply chains. Previously, he served as President of the Pacific Council on International Policy and Vice President for Strategy and New Initiatives at the Wilson Center, where he focused on supply chain policy and geopolitics related to energy transition.

From 2013 to 2020, he was Director of the Wilson Center's Mexico Institute, enhancing U.S.-Mexico relations through research and policy engagement. His academic tenure includes directing the International Relations Program at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) in Mexico City from 1996 to 2012.

Wood has authored or edited 13 books and over 30 chapters and articles, contributing extensively to discussions on global energy policy and international affairs. He has testified before Congress, and his work is widely cited. He serves on the boards of Transparency International, Signos Vitales, and Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica, and cochairs the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Transparency and Anti-Corruption. Wood holds a Ph.D. in Political Studies from Queen's University in Canada and is a Liverpool Football Club supporter.

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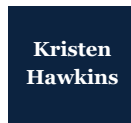
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MEMBERS AS OF DATE OF PRINTING

6/17/2025

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