

LATINO LEADERS

CONNECTING LEADERS, INSPIRING THE FUTURE

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TOP LATINO LAWYERS

2022

Congratulations!

AND DON'T MISS
**THE LIST OF
RISING STARS,**
THEY WILL CONTINUE
TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

HISPANIC HERITAGE:

A COLLECTION OF
STORIES DEPICTING
THE SUCCESS OF OUR
COMMUNITY.

EDUCATION:

A KEY TOOL FOR THE
UNVEILING OF BETTER
OPPORTUNITIES!



ARNULFO & CHRISTINE:

THEIR JOURNEY OF SUCCESS & THEIR EMBRACING OF HERITAGE



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ARNULFO AND CHRISTINE EMBRACED THEIR HERITAGE TO CREATE A LAW FIRM

The partners have always perceived their immigrant background as a strength of their business

Hernandez & Associates P.C.

CHRISTINE M. HERNANDEZ

SHAREHOLDER
IMMIGRATION LAW

ARNULFO D. HERNANDEZ

MANAGING PARTNER
CRIMINAL LAW AND IMMIGRATION LAW

HERNANDEZ & ASSOCIATES P.C. is recognized as Colorado's best law firm for immigration and criminal defense. The award-winning firm was founded 15 years ago by Arnulfo and Christine Hernandez, a couple of attorneys who met on the first day of Law School in Denver and often heard they were "crazy" when they talked about their desire to focus on immigration law.

Both attorneys come from bicultural families. Christine was born in Virginia and used to spend holidays in Panama, her mother's home county. She grew up seeing her mother helping other immigrants and was familiar with a diverse household. "I saw the power of working hard from a very young age. I have always been proud to be in an immigrant family. It just made sense that I ended up getting into immigration law, even though nobody in the family is an attorney," she says.

Arnulfo grew up in Mexico and the U.S. and comes from a family of business owners. He is a criminal defense attorney who regularly practices in the field of crimmigration. Since law school the managing partner knew his passion was to open a law firm to serve our Hispanic community. Staying true to its mission, Hernandez & Associates P.C. currently employs 13 multi-cultural attorneys and a fully bilingual staff of 35.

Community involvement is in the firm's DNA. The importance of community can be perceived by looking at the team, which embraces diversity and culture, including celebrating the Hispanic holidays together, as a law firm. Arnulfo believes in leading by example and makes sure that he encourages his team to be mindful to the cultural nuances of clients. "It is part of honoring who we are and where we come from. We listen to every story like our own," he says.



HERNANDEZ & ASSOCIATES P.C. HAS FILLED A MARKET GAP: COLORADO CLIENTS COULD FINALLY ACCESS SKILLED SPANISH-SPEAKING ATTORNEYS.

Christine often heard that she was making a wrong decision by choosing immigration law and would not make a living with it, but she proved those critics wrong. "A year after we opened the law firm, we had one drawer with immigration cases, now there's an entire file room," she says.

Arnulfo is aware of the importance of his work for the community and families. "For our clients, it's about not being judged by your mistakes, your errors, or small lapses in judgment. It's about getting justice for our clients and their families, and we do so through the court. I'm proud to say that many of our cases began with small legal blemishes, and now those very clients are fabulous, contributing members of this community."

The secret to success was embracing their heritage. Christine explains that they have never seen being Hispanic as a disadvantage but a strength. "There were many obstacles, but we were pushing the limits in every sense. We are doing what people told us was not possible and doing it our way."

In establishing the law firm, the partners were confident they would be successful because they were doing something different from other law firms and could relate to their clients. As a result, Hernandez & Associates P.C. has filled a market gap: Colorado clients could finally access highly skilled Spanish-speaking attorneys. "We have focused on providing the best representation, not giving up or being afraid to fight. We don't take cases that are just winners. We take cases because everyone deserves quality, zealous representation," Christine adds.

Arnulfo highlights that clients are often looking for a connection, and the sense of community at the firm makes the difference. "It's a challenge to find strong attorneys that will give their all for that client and their family and not just view the client as a file," he says.

The work is not going unnoticed. This year the Colorado Lawyers Committee awarded Hernandez & Associates, P.C. the law firm of the year award for their pro bono and community work for the last 15 years. In 2019, the firm received the Inclusiveness@Work Award from the Center of Legal Inclusiveness. Each time, the firm was nominated along with national firms, motivating them to continue focusing on the sense of community and family.

Even with all these achievements after just 15 years, Hernandez & Associates P.C. still has plans. Christine and Arnulfo agree that they can use their expertise to contribute in other ways for the benefit of the community. "I believe the community deserves it, and there's a lack of representation in many areas. And we have a duty as lawyers to give it our all to protect the rights of our community," Arnulfo says.

Christine believes their role will intensify as advocates for their heritage. "We're pivoting to becoming community leaders and being more outspoken because we've earned that space. We should be champions for our community regarding things like federal vacancies on the bench and political or community issues that affect the Hispanic community. We should be speaking up." ●

 Luana Ferreira

 Paul Hartmann

 F. Izquierdo