

McGlinchey's Manuel Farach receives Judge Rodgers Award for Diversity

August 14, 2020

McGlinchey Stafford proudly announces that Member **Manuel Farach** (Fort Lauderdale) has been named recipient of the 2020 Judge Edward Rodgers Diversity Award by the Palm Beach County Bar Association (PBCBA)'s Committee for Diversity and Inclusion.

Manny received the award during the group's Bench Bar Conference on Friday, August 14 via Zoom. The award, established in 2012, is named for Palm Beach County's first African-American prosecutor, judge, and chief Judge. The distinction is conferred upon a PBCBA member who demonstrates a consistent pattern of commitment to the recruitment, retention, and promotion of diverse individuals; cultivates and promotes diversity and gender initiatives that establish and foster a more inclusive and equitable work environment, and exhibits visionary and insightful leadership to confront and resolve inequities.

Manny had the privilege of serving alongside Judge Rodgers on the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics, working as the two minority members of the Commission. When Manny was appointed Chair of that Commission, he and Judge Rodgers worked strategically to enhance diversity within the Commission. Prior to their working together on the Commission on Ethics, Manny tried cases before Judge Rodgers.

"Judge Rodgers presided over the first case I took to trial, and he seemed especially tough on me during that case. I wondered why at the time," Manny recalls. "Later, as I worked with and got to know him, I realized he had been pushing me to 'up my game,' because diversity is not a substitute for excellence, as speakers I admire frequently remind us. Judge Rodgers helped to integrate our community with humanity and grace, and I'm grateful for the lessons he taught me, both about the law and about leadership."

In 2006, Manny became the first minority (Hispanic) President of the PBCBA, and actively recruited and advocated for his successors who included the first Asian-American and African-American Presidents of the organization. Likewise, he has served as a mentor and champion for numerous diverse colleagues in positions of leadership within the legal and business communities.

Manny helped to found the Hispanic Business Political Action Committee (HISPAC) and the ¡Triunfo! Awards, celebrating Hispanics who have made significant contributions to Palm Beach County. He has also served in leadership roles of local chambers of commerce and charitable organizations.

“Manny continually raises the bar, both as a practicing lawyer and as a dedicated leader for diversity in the profession,” says Rodolfo Jesús “Rudy” Aguilar Jr., McGlinchey’s Managing Member. “The firm is grateful for his tireless efforts on behalf of clients and the legal profession.”

“Manny leads by example, thoughtfully advocating for inclusion of diverse perspectives in every situation,” says Deirdre McGlinchey, Chair of the firm’s Diversity Committee. “We’re proud to congratulate him on this deserved honor.”

In addition to other accomplishments, Manny is one of only 15 members of the Florida Bar who are simultaneously board certified in three practice areas (Real Estate Law, Business Litigation, and Appellate Law). He is extremely active in leadership in legal associations. He serves as current or former Chair/President of the Real Property Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution committee of the American Bar Association’s Section of Real Property, Trust, and Estate Law; the Florida Supreme Court Committee on Jury Instructions for Business Cases; the Fourth District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission; Justice Major Harding American Inn of Court (of which is also a Charter Member); Craig S. Barnard American Inn of Court (Chapter LIV); Palm Beach County Bar Association; Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association; and the Catholic Lawyers Guild of the Diocese of Palm Beach. Manny is the current Vice Chair of the Bankruptcy Committee of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers (ACREL), of which he was named a Fellow in 2017. Manny serves on the Executive Councils of the Real Property Section, the Business Law Section, and the ADR Section of The Florida Bar (on numerous committees within those Sections) and on various committees of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. He is an Adjunct Professor at the Florida State University College of Law and the Rinker School of Business at Palm Beach Atlantic University.

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