

## Former GHS Partner Dolores Atencio selected to Receive the Prestigious 2024 ABA Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award



The American Bar Association recently announced the winners of this year's 2024 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement awards. To our delight, among them, was former Garcia Hernandez Sawhney, LLP partner – Dolores Atencio. The Margaret Brent award is named after the first woman licensed to practice law in the United States and was established in 1991 by the American Bar Association's Commission on Women to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of women lawyers. "Each year, this award honors up to five outstanding women lawyers who have achieved professional excellence within their area of specialty and have actively paved the way to success for other women lawyers." More about the award and the ABA Commission on Women can be found [here](#).

Dolores' nomination was spearheaded by the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) and GHS Founder Mary Hernandez and she had the support from a who's who list of accomplished attorneys and organizations from throughout nation, including Ambassador Mari Carmen Aponte, New Mexico Congresswoman Teresa Leger, the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association, the Center for Women in Law at the University of Texas School of Law, a significant number of HNBA Presidents (current and former) from throughout the country, the HNBA's Commission on the Status of Latinas in the Legal Profession and the University of Denver's Latino Center for Community Engagement and Scholarship.

Dolores was nominated for her groundbreaking research on the first Latina lawyers licensed to practice law in the U.S. and Puerto Rico and her historic scholarly contributions to the legal profession that spans over 30 years, starting in 1993. Garcia Hernandez Sawhney, LLP has long supported Dolores' "Luminarias" Exhibit, which has been shown throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico. For more on her exhibit and research, <https://portfolio.du.edu/Dolores.Atencio/page/54484>

Dolores was also nominated for the outstanding advocacy work she has undertaken on behalf of Latina and women lawyers. As the second woman President of the HNBA, and the HNBA's first Mexican-American female President, Dolores has mentored virtually *every* female President who followed her and countless women lawyers have identified Dolores as playing a significant role in their nominations and appointments to key positions in critical areas throughout the federal judiciary, the Department of Justice and a variety of Boards and Commissions, including the first woman General Counsel to the U.S. Army and the first woman and first person of color to serve as President of the U.S. Council on Historic Preservation.

Dolores is currently under contract to write a law book on the first Latina Article III Judges, State Supreme Court Justices and Public Interest Litigators, which should be published later this year. She then plans to complete several children's books, including books for both elementary and secondary students featuring the Luminarias she has researched for the past few decades.

Dolores Atencio, herself a Luminaria, is a trailblazer and source of pride not only for us but to multitudes throughout the nation! Congratulations Dolores!