

WOMEN BREAKING BOUNDARIES

LATINA LEADERS



ALESSANDRA LEZAMA

CEO
Abacus Next

PANELIST:

Alessandra Lezama assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer for Abacus Data Systems in 2013. When she joined the company to lead the executive team, Abacus Next represented a powerful brand in the legal case management software industry. She propelled the organization forward with the introduction of Abacus' private cloud service.

Proof of her leadership has been not only 250% corporate growth but also the addition of more than 100 talented employees, which Alessandra proudly reports is her keenest accomplishment.

Her long executive career in technology leadership has brought inspiration and strategy to Abacus Next, influencing its reinvention and exponential growth in the legal vertical and beyond.

Alessandra's prior executive career includes roles such as CEO of Sunfood (San Diego, CA), CEO of Sandiego.com, and CEO and COO of American Internet Services, plus a number of sales technology leadership positions. She holds an MBA in International Marketing and BSE in International Marketing and Information Technology from Christina del Escorial (Madrid, Spain).



MARA ELLIOTT

CITY ATTORNEY
San Diego

PANELIST:

The first in her family to graduate from college, Mara Elliott, worked her way through UC Santa Barbara and McGeorge School of Law.

As Senior Deputy County Counsel, Mara served as the Sheriff's attorney and worked to track down perpetrators of elder abuse. As General Counsel to the San Diego Transit District, Mara worked to expand public transit and strengthen local communities.

As Chief Deputy City Attorney for the last seven years, Mara Elliott has taken on polluters, fraud, and crime. She is working to implement the City's plan to achieve 100% clean renewable energy and leads the prosecution of corporate polluters dumping toxins in our waterways. Mara wrote the city law to crack down on law-breaking city contractors and has cut wasteful spending at City Hall, saving taxpayers millions. Mara serves as lead counsel for the city's Independent Audit Committee.

Mara's father was a Longshoreman and her mother emigrated from Mexico and worked as a Secretary in the United States.



MON. MAR. 27, 5:30-7PM
USU BALLROOM

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CATHERINE GARCIA

NEWS ANCHOR
NBC 7 News

PANELIST:

Catherine Garcia joined NBC 7 San Diego as the station's weekend anchor in 2003. She is now the station's main anchor, seen on the News at 4 PM, 6 PM, and 11 PM, Monday through Friday.

Before returning home to Southern California, Catherine worked in El Paso, Austin, and Dallas, Texas. She got her start in journalism working behind the scenes at CNN Headquarters in Atlanta and with the CNN Los Angeles Bureau.

Catherine received her bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Spanish from the University of Southern California. She also studied abroad through the Semester at Sea program, traveling to South America, Africa and Asia.



ANA DE SANTIAGO

DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
San Diego County
DA Office

PANELIST:

Ana De Santiago has served as a criminal prosecutor for the last 15 years. She is committed to the protection of children and the community from victimization by sexual offenders and individuals involved in human trafficking.

Ana is a native of Mexico City and immigrated to the United States with her mother and sister when she was twelve years old. She credits her mother for always encouraging her to work hard to pursue higher education and to give back to her community. Ana pursued higher education and earned her degrees in Political Science and International Studies from Pepperdine University in 1998. Motivated by her strong desire to give back, she attended Loyola Law School in Los Angeles where she earned her law degree in 2001.

Ana started her legal career in 2001 as a Deputy City Attorney at the San Diego City Attorney's Office, where she spent most of her career at the Family Justice Center prosecuting cases involving domestic violence.

In 2004, Ana joined the San Diego District Attorney's Office where she has held multiple assignments and has prosecuted a wide variety of cases, including: sexual assault, child molest, rape, and homicide. She found her passion as a prosecutor during her tenure in the Sex Crimes and Human Trafficking Division, where she rose to the rank of "Team Leader," becoming the District Attorney's Office expert on "Megan's Law" and specializing in "Sex Offender Management."



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