

# OUR HOUSE IS YOUR HOME

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*The New York City Bar Association's Diversity Pipeline programs support high school, college, and law students as they pursue careers in the legal profession. Peter A. Garcia, 2016 graduate of Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University and member of the Task Force on Puerto Rico, shares his City Bar Story. He is currently a Senior Examiner at FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority).*

## WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE NEW YORK CITY BAR ASSOCIATION FOR THE FIRST TIME?

I first walked into the New York City Bar Association as a law student for a networking event. I continued to visit the City Bar many times – at times as much as, or more than, my law school campus. One memorable program was the Alliance of Securities and Financial Educators (ASAFE) Securities & Finance Seminar Series.

## DESCRIBE YOUR CITY BAR COMMITTEE EXPERIENCE.

I am proud to be a newly appointed member of the Task Force on Puerto Rico. Currently, I am learning about upcoming initiatives to help my fellow Puerto Ricans – our fellow American Citizens – who still suffer from the devastating impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Despite over seven months passing since these hurricanes, Puerto Ricans continue to lack access to clean water sources, stable electricity, resources to rebuild their homes and mainland infrastructure, among many other issues. These are but a few reasons why I joined the committee. I look forward to contributing to the efforts to help American Citizens who are in need.

## WHO ARE YOUR MENTORS?

Particularly at the City Bar, Neysa Alsina and Gabrielle Brown are my mentors. Their wisdom, enthusiasm, and willingness to listen and help have been invaluable. They have both informed me about events, programs and initiatives offered by the City Bar and other organizations that I did not know existed – all of which I benefited from tremendously.

## IF YOU COULD GIVE ONE PIECE OF ADVICE TO YOURSELF 10 YEARS AGO, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Take your time, do not rush, and think about your options before you go full steam ahead.



PETER A. GARCIA

## WERE THERE ANY SURPRISES ALONG YOUR CAREER PATH?

I would not call certain experiences surprises, but instead bumps in the road during my law school and career journeys. I was able to overcome these obstacles partly due to my stubborn determination to move forward and succeed. Equally as important along my path were the relationships I established with mentors, friends, and colleagues, many of whom I met or got to know better at City Bar programs and events.

## IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AT THE CITY BAR?

There is no other organization, bar association or otherwise, that provides programs and events like the New York City Bar Association. Since my very first event at the City Bar, I have had wonderful experiences at this "historic home," including holding my MetroLALSA graduation reception there. I sincerely hope that other law students, attorneys and legal professionals have the opportunity to appreciate what the City Bar has to offer.