

# *Juan Cartagena Interview*



*Interviewed by Karlha Matta*

at

LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
99 Hudson Street 14th Floor  
New York, NY 10013

February 22, 2012

Transcribed by Karlha Matta  
Edited by Ivette Mendez

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<b>Interviewee and title</b>	Juan Cartagena, President and General Counsel, Latino Justice PRLDEF (Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Funding)
<b>Interviewer and title</b>	Karlha Matta
<b>Title</b>	Interview of Juan Cartagena
<b>Summary</b>	Oral history of Juan Cartagena. The interview was conducted at his office, 99 Hudson Street, New York, New York. The theme of the interview is justice.
<b>Number of interviews</b>	One
<b>Interview date(s)</b>	February 22, 2012
<b>Transcript note</b>	Every effort has been made to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the audio recording in this transcription. The interview was transcribed as per the Hispanic Reference Collection's Oral History Transcription Guidelines and the Baylor Institute for Oral History's <i>Style Guide</i> , at <a href="http://www.baylor.edu/oralhistory/index.php?id=23607">http://www.baylor.edu/oralhistory/index.php?id=23607</a>
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<b>Sound recordings note</b>	Available in MP3 or Archival CD at PRCA upon request.
<b>Additional Notes</b>	For an extended list of topic areas discussed in this oral history, please see pages 56 - 57.
<b>Subjects—Library of Congress</b>	
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## **Topic Areas (Page #s)**

### **Organizations**

- ASPIRA, Incorporated of New Jersey (15-16)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (35)
- Department of Homeland Security [D.H.S.] (24)
- Department of Puerto Rican Community Affairs in the United States (2)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission [E.E.O.C.] (42, 43)
- Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (4, 31)
- Hudson County Board of Elections (7, 8, 10)
- Hudson County Committee in Support of Vieques (4)
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement [I.C.E.] (24)
- LatinoJustice PRLDEF [Formerly the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund] (1, 2, 3, 23, 24, 27, 51)
- State Bar Association of New Jersey (31)

### **People**

- Aponte, Juanita [mother] (10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 19)
- Bloomberg, Michael [I - Mayor, New York, New York] (37)
- Cartagena, Juan [father] (10, 12)
- Clinton, William J. “Bill” [United States President] (37, 54)
- Cucci, Anthony R. [D - Mayor, Jersey City, 1985-89] (5- 10)
- McCann, Gerald [D - Mayor, Jersey City, 1981-85, 1989-92] (4-10)
- Menéndez, Robert “Bob” [D - U.S. Senator, New Jersey] (34)
- Obama, Barack H. [United States President] (34, 46)
- Rivera, Eliú (53)
- Rubio, Marco (R - U.S. Senator, Florida) (34)

### **Places**

- Florida
  - Orlando (19)
  - Volusia County (27)
- New Jersey (1, 2, 10, 20, 22, 33, 37, 43, 49, 50, 51, 53)
  - Camden, New Jersey (49)
  - Essex County, New Jersey (30, 49)
  - Hoboken, New Jersey (3, 12, 29, 53, 54, 55)
  - Hudson County, New Jersey (6, 12, 49, 53, 54)
  - Jersey City, New Jersey (2, 3, 4-10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 55)
    - Waterfront District / The River (5, 6, 11, 12)
  - Monmouth County, New Jersey (5)
  - Newark, New Jersey (2, 16)
  - Vineland, NJ (49, 50)
- New York (1, 2, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 43)
  - Mamaroneck, New York (28)

- New York City (17, 18, 19, 26, 28, 29, 37, 38, 39, 42, 44)
  - The Bronx (38)
  - East New York (38)
  - Jamaica (38)
  - Lower East Side (38)
  - Manhattan (13)
  - Wall Street (22, 38)
- Puerto Rico
  - Cayey (10, 14)
  - Orocovis (10)
  - Vieques [United States Naval Bombings] (4, 52, 53, 54, 55)

### **Institutions**

- Columbia University Law School (21, 22-23)
- Dartmouth College (20, 21)
- Ferris High School (Jersey City) (12, 15)
- Public School 5 (Jersey City) (12)
- Rutgers University, New Brunswick (4, 45)
- Saint Peter's College (Jersey City) (4)

### **Subjects**

- Affirmative Action (21, 31)
- Bilingual / Multilingual (2, 3, 25-26, 27-28, 49, 51)
  - Education (2, 3)
  - Government Services (3, 25-26, 27-28, 49, 51)
  - English-Only Movement, Senator S. I. Hayakawa [R-California] (3)
- Bracero Programs (49, 50)
- Civil Rights (2, 41, 54)
  - Discrimination (30-32, 33, 36, 39-40, 41, 47)
    - Employment Discrimination (24, 26-27, 28, 42-45)
    - Housing Discrimination (27, 28, 41-42)
  - Police Profiling (40, 47)
- Criminal Justice System (36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 45)
  - Arrests (36, 37, 39, 40, 43, 53, 54)
  - Discriminatory Practices Against Prisoners (28, 36)
  - Prisons / Prisoners (28, 37, 38, 39)
- Gentrification (5, 13)
- Immigration (18, 24, 40, 45, 46-47)
  - Dream Act (46, 47)
- Racial Violence (3)
- Racism (5, 19, 20)
- Sexual Harassment (24, 29)
- United States Courts / Judiciary (8, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34-35, 36, 38, 39, 41, 48, 50, 51, 54)

- Voting Rights (4-10, 27, 49)
  - Disenfranchisement (4-10)
  - Redistricting (2, 28)
  - “Slow Down the Vote” Campaign (6-7); *see also* *McCann, Gerald*
  - Voter Intimidation (3-4, 4-10)

### **Lawsuits**

- *Marquez v. Falcey* (49); *see also* *Voting Rights*
- *Miranda v. Local 208* (49, 50); *see also* *Bracero Programs*
- *New Jersey v. Curet* (51); *see also* *Bilingual / Multilingual, Government Services*
- *Puerto Rican Education Coalition v. Jersey City Board of Education* (3); *see also* *Bilingual / Multilingual*
- *Rodríguez v. Hoffman* (50); *see also* *U.S. Courts/Judiciary*
- *Vargas v. Hudson County Board of Elections* (3-4, 9-10); *see also* *Voting Rights, Voter Intimidation*
- *Vázquez v. Ferré* (49); *see also* *Bracero Programs*