



Mayor of Providence

Angel Taveras

October 22, 2012

Honorable Members  
Providence City Council  
City Hall

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to Sections 302(b) of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, as amended; Section 8-13 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence; and Public Law, Chapter 45-50, Sections 1 through 31 passed in 1987, I am this day re-appointing Jorge Elorza, Esq., of 35 Deborah Street, Providence RI 02909, as an Associate Justice of the Providence Housing Court, for a term to end on January 4, 2016, and respectfully submit the same for approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angel Taveras".

Angel Taveras  
Mayor

AT/gc

IN CITY COUNCIL  
DEC 06 2012

READ  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED AND APPROVED  
A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely of the City Clerk.  
CLERK

# **Jorge O. Elorza**

Professor of Law  
Roger Williams University School of Law  
Ten Metacom Avenue  
Bristol, RI 02809  
(401) 254-4615

E-mail: [jelorza@rwu.edu](mailto:jelorza@rwu.edu)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Roger Williams University School of Law, Bristol, RI**

*Professor of Law*

*July 2005 – Present*

- Courses include Property, Housing Law & Policy, and Advanced Constitutional Law
- Co-chairman, Latino Policy Institute @ Roger Williams University

### **University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI**

*Adjunct Professor*

*January 2004 – May 2005*

- Taught Business Law course to Juniors and Seniors in College of Business Administration

## **SCHOLARSHIP**

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### **Secularism and the Constitution: Can Government Be Too Religious?**

72 Pitt. L. Rev. 54 (2010)

- Exploring the constitutional obstacles that would be encountered if a public body adopted the position that there are no supernatural agents (i.e. Gods) interacting in the natural world.

### **Absentee Landlords, Rent Control, and Healthy Gentrification: A Policy Proposal to Deconcentrate the Poor in Urban America**

17 Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy 1 (2007) (lead article)

- Exploring the externalities caused by the absentee landlord industry and the stabilizing presence of higher income homeowners within a neighborhood. The article then proposes a rent control scheme that reverses the systematic financial advantage held by absentee landlords over resident landlords in blighted neighborhoods.

## **EDUCATION**

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### **Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA**

*Juris Doctor, 2003*

- Teaching Assistant & Fellow for Professor Lani Guinier
- Teaching Assistant for Professor Lucie White
- Co-Chair of Latino Law Student Association
- Freshman Proctor in Harvard College
- Research Paper: Decisional Legitimacy of Judicial and Legislative Action in the HMO Context

### **University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI**

*B.S. Accounting, 1998*

- Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*: #1 in Accounting Class
- President of Latin American Student Association

## LEGAL PRACTICE

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### **Rhode Island Legal Services, Providence, RI**

*Staff Attorney*

*September 2003 – June 2005*

- Litigated race discrimination cases (Civil Rights Act of 1964) in Federal District Court and RI Commission for Human Rights
- Represented private and public housing tenants in Rhode Island District and Superior Court

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

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### **City of Providence Housing Court, Providence, RI**

*Associate Judge*

*April 2010 – present*

- Adjudicate alleged violations of city and state building, maintenance and zoning codes

### **Magnan Graizzaro & Associates, Hingham, MA**

*Associate Forensic Auditor*

*September 1999 – August 2000*

- Analyzed and quantified casualty claims
- Wrote reports detailing findings to insurance companies

### **PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, New York, NY**

*Associate Auditor*

*September 1998 – June 1999*

- Audited balance sheets and income statements of Wall Street capital markets firms (Broker/Dealers and Mutual Funds)
- Worked under minimal supervision to compile and audit 24 financial statements for a group of large international mutual funds

## SPEECHES & PRESENTATIONS

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- Presentation, Regina Berrenback Memorial Lecture, "Immigration and Social Justice", April 3, 2011
- Presentation, "Secularism and the Constitution: Can Government Be Too Secular?", AALS Section on Socioeconomics, San Diego, January 2009
- Panelist, "Pasts and Futures of Black Politics and Activism", Brown University, Department of Africana Studies, November 2008
- Guest, "Latino Policy Institute: Vision & Future", The Jim Vincent Show, Public Access Television, November 2008
- Panelist and Presentation, "Latino Policy Institute: Vision & Future", Rhode Island Foundation (in collaboration with Brown University, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America), October 2008
- Commentator, Presentation by Scott Bullock, Roger Williams University School of Law, The Federalist Society, April 2009
- Presentation, "Intersection of Housing and Urban Education", Urban Education Task Force, Providence, RI, April 2009
- Guest, "Latino Policy Institute: Vision & Future", Capitol Colors, Public Access Television, March 2009
- Presentation, "Absentee Landlords, Rent Control and Healthy Gentrification", Unity Summit, Providence, RI, February 2009

- Keynote Speaker, "The Importance of Diversity in the Legal Profession", Roger Williams University School of Law, Multi-Cultural Law Student Association, August 2008
- Presentation, "Secularism and the Constitution: Can Government Be Too Secular?", Lat-Crit Conference, Seattle University, October 2008
- Panelist, "Latinos in the United States", University of Rhode Island, September 2008
- Presentation, "Secularism and the Constitution: Can Government Be Too Secular?", NEPOC, Boston University, September 2008
- Panelist, "Latinos in Politics", Brown University, March 2008
- Presentation, "Absentee Landlords, Rent Control, and Healthy Gentrification", Faculty Development Workshop, Roger Williams University School of Law, March 2007
- Presentation, "Absentee Landlords, Rent Control, and Healthy Gentrification", Alumni of Color Conference, Harvard Graduate School of Education, March 2007
- Presentation, "Absentee Landlords, Rent Control, and Healthy Gentrification", The Poverty Institute, December 2006
- Panelist, Affordable Housing Forum, Making Connections, Providence, November 2006
- Paper Presentation: "Overcoming Subconscious Racism", Northeast Junior Faculty Exchange, October 2006
- Testimony before Rhode Island General Assembly, House Corporations Committee, March 2006
- Presentation, Being an Effective Poverty Lawyer, Roger Williams School of Law, 2006
- Presentation, After Katrina, Roger Williams University School of Law, 2005
- Facilitator, "Coming into Community" Clinical Education Conference, Roger Williams University School of Law, June 2005
- Commencement Speaker, Community College of Rhode Island Graduation Ceremony, May 2005
- Keynote Speaker, Cum Laude Society, Classical High School, June 2004
- Panelist, "Racial Justice Colloquium", Roger Williams University School of Law, April 2004
- Speaker, Education Opportunity Center Achievement Luncheon, January 2005
- Keynote Speaker, Community College of Rhode Island, Liston Campus Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, April 2004
- Speaker, RI Bar Association Annual Meeting Luncheon, June 2002

## COMMUNITY

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- Board of Directors, The Rhode Island Foundation, 2012-present
- Board of Governors, The Miriam Hospital, 2011-present
- Founder and co-chairman, Latino Policy Institute @ RWU, 2009-present
- Board member, The Poverty Institute at Rhode Island College, 2005-2008
- Board member, English for Action, 2004-2008

- Board member, Latino Dollars for Scholars, 1999-2006
- Counselor, Special Programs for Talent Development at URI, 2003
- Board member, The Worker's Center at Harvard University, 2001-2003
- Student Organizer, Living Wage Campaign at Harvard University, 2001
- Field Plan Manager, Angel Taveras for United States Congress, 2000
- Tutor/Counselor, Upward Bound Program at Rhode Island College, 1999
- Mentor, Children's Crusade for Higher Education, 1997-1998
- Volunteer, Junior Achievement (taught a course on interpersonal skills in business environment to inner city high school students)
  - Bushwick High School, Brooklyn, NY, 1998
  - Central High School, Providence, RI, 1999-2000

## **RECOGNITIONS & AWARDS**

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- Fellow, RI Bar Foundation, 2011
- Distinguished Alumni Award, Classical High School Alumni Association, 2010
- 10 to Watch, Providence Monthly, 2010
- Beyond the Call of Duty Award, Childhood Lead Action Project, 2006
- Nominated by U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee for the Senate Hispanic Leadership Summit, 2005
- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Achievers Award, Rhode Island Education Opportunity Center, 2005
- Latino Dollars for Scholars Achievement Recognition, 2004
- Thomas F. Black Memorial Scholarship (RI Bar Foundation), 2000
- Outstanding Senior Award (URI College of Business Administration), 1998
- Latino Dollars for Scholars Scholarship, 1996, 1997
- URI Academic Excellence Scholarship, 1996, 1997
- American Institute of CPAs Minority Initiative Scholarship, 1997
- NYNEX Dollars for Scholars Scholarship, 1997
- RI Society of CPAs Scholarship, 1997
- U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, 1997
- Hispanic College Fund Scholarship, 1997
- Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society, 1997
- Al Morro Outstanding Dedication and Leadership Award, 1994

## **BAR MEMBERSHIP**

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Admitted to Rhode Island Bar, 2003

## **LANGUAGE**

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Fluently speak, read, and write Spanish.