



PRBA
e-Newsletter
Vol. 1, No. 2

PRBA

PUERTO RICAN BAR ASSOCIATION



"By mutual confidence and mutual aid, great deeds are done, and great discoveries made."
The Road • Book X • Homer • 8th Century BC • Greek Epic Poetry

A New York Based Association Of Attorneys, Judges, Professors, Law Students & Qualified Paralegals.

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07 November 2007

Legacy of Justice Gilbert Ramirez Honored at Cervantes Society Event

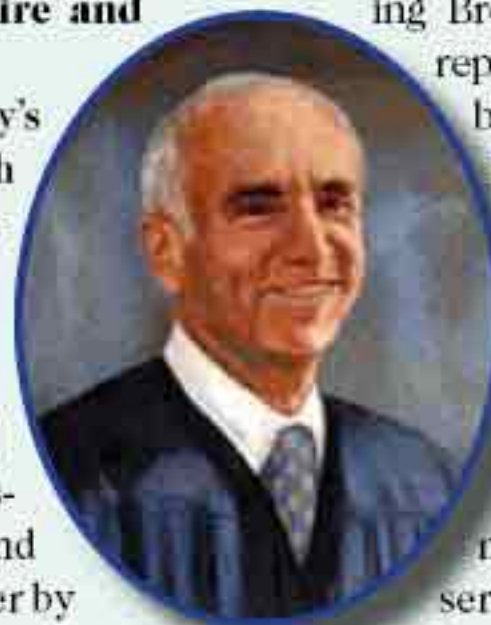
Some say that there are two types of people— those who do and those who just think or talk about doing things. May Justice Gilbert Ramirez's example inspire and encourage us all.

The Cervantes Society's Hispanic Heritage Month Closing Ceremony Event paid tribute to and celebrated the legacy of the Honorable Gilbert Ramirez (1924-2000). As evinced by the many persons present who were inspired and helped in one way or another by Judge Ramirez, it is clear that his example and many contributions to our community will endure far into the future. The event was attended by a very diverse group of people showing that he touched many, irrespective of their station in life or national origin.

Judge Ramirez was a truly incredible person. *He did and attained more than most of us ever will, despite his blindness.* How? He simply did not accept any limitations on himself; he lived by doing and did not make or accept any excuses as to why he couldn't do something. He cared about others, fought against discrimination on the basis of race or disability, and was active and involved with our community.

Born in Puerto Rico, Justice Ramirez overcame the obstacles of racism and blindness and accomplished many

things. He earned his law degree at night from Brooklyn Law School, while working a full-time job. He was elected to the State Assembly in 1965, becoming Brooklyn's first Puerto Rican representative in the assembly. He was the first Puerto Rican elected as Justice of the Supreme Court, Kings County, where he served with distinction from 1975 until he retired in 1997. Justice Ramirez received numerous commendations and awards for service both on and off the bench. Upon his retirement, then Mayor Rudolph Giuliani proclaimed a "Justice Gilbert Ramirez Day."



*Honorable
Gilbert Ramirez*

Justice Ramirez was an active member of many professional organizations, including the Puerto Rican Bar Association, but was also actively involved in the Williamsburg and Bushwick communities and served on the Board of Directors of various community organizations. He gave his time and expertise to the Brooklyn Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, the Bedford-Stuyvesant Beautification Association, the Brooklyn Council of Boy Scouts, and many other entities.

The Cervantes Society presented Scholarship Awards in Justice Ramirez's name to two promising college students. ■