

March 22, 2023

## Reichard & Escalera Update

*Partner of Reichard & Escalera installed as member of the Law and Jurisprudence Academy*

We are proud to notify all our clients, colleagues, and friends, that our Managing Partner Rafael Escalera Rodríguez, has been elected as a Numeral Member of the Puerto Rican Academy of Law and Jurisprudence (Academy). The solemn installation took place on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at the headquarters of the Puerto Rican Athenaeum. The Academy, correspondent of the Royal Academy of Jurisprudence of Spain, was established on December 9, 1985, and aims to promote research and practice in law and its auxiliary sciences, as well as to contribute to the reforms and progress of Puerto Rican legislation and administration of justice. The Academy works closely with similar entities in other countries. Its members are prominent judges at both local and federal levels, former judges and professors of law.

Mr. Escalera obtained his B.A. in Humanities Magna Cum Laude and J.D. Magna Cum Laude from the University of Puerto Rico Law School (where he graduated first in his class and obtained the West Publishing Co. prize to the best student in Anglo-American law, the Puerto Rico Bar Association Medal and the Manuel Rodríguez Ramos Medal) and his Master's degree in law from Harvard University. He has taught at the University of Puerto Rico Law School and at the Catholic University Graduate Law Program. He was Editor in Chief of the University of Puerto Rico Law Review and Law Clerk to the Chief Justice of Puerto Rico, José Trias Monge, who was a founding member of the Academy. He is a former member of the Board of Governors for the University of Puerto Rico. Mr. Escalera was co-lead counsel for the prevailing party in the 2004 federal litigation arising out of that year's gubernatorial election. Mr. Escalera is a frequent lecturer on commercial litigation and several other issues. He has served in the Board of Trustees of the Puerto Rico Museum of Art and the Kinesis Foundation as well as the Foundation for the University of Puerto Rico.

Fluent in Spanish, English and French, Mr. Escalera supervises Reichard & Escalera's general litigation work and personally handles its civil practice under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act and the Puerto



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Rico Dealer's Act (Law 75), as well as most complex litigation cases. Mr. Escalera has wide experience in many areas of commercial litigation from mass tort (i.e., Dupont Hotel fire litigation) complex labor litigation (i.e. plant closings) superfund cases, securities, regulated market cases, trademark litigation, products liability and civil rights actions. He has been a major participant in litigation arising out of Puerto Rico's financial restructuring under the PROMESA federal statute. He is also involved in the opioid crisis litigation and hurricane reconstruction litigation. Mr. Escalera is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, the United States District Court of Puerto Rico, the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. For several years in a row, Chambers Global has identified Mr. Escalera as an "eminent lawyer" and "one of the best litigators in the country", placing him as one of only two litigators in the top tier ranking. He has also been identified by the Who's Who Legal publication for recognition in the 10th edition of The International Who's Who of Franchise Lawyers.

With more than 45 years of litigation experience at all levels of local and federal courts, Mr. Escalera has reached a pivotal moment in his career by being elected as a Numeral Member of this distinguished group of legal academics. We are honored to recognize our Managing Partner's accomplishments.

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