



PUERTO RICO: The Road to Recovery and Reconstruction

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018 | 11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM
U.S. CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER | ROOM SVC 209-08 | FIRST ST NE, WASHINGTON, DC

SPEAKERS

Senator Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal is serving his second term as a U.S. Senator from the State of Connecticut. Previously, Sen. Blumenthal served five terms as Connecticut's Attorney General. His aggressive law enforcement for consumer protection, environmental stewardship, labor rights, and personal privacy has helped reshape the role of state attorneys general nationwide, and resulted in the recovery of hundreds of millions of dollars for Connecticut taxpayers each year. A key player in the national fight against Big Tobacco, he helped bring an end to deceptive marketing aimed at children. He also helped lead a coalition of all 50 states that culminated in historic agreements with social networking sites to better protect children from Internet predators. As Attorney General, he advocated for reforms in the health insurance industry to assure critical health care coverage and lower pharmaceutical drug prices. His vigorous investigation and legal action against insurance industry abuses has forced financial restitution and reform. He has successfully fought unfair utility rate charges, air pollution causing acid rain, general environmental wrongdoing, as well as a wide array of consumer scams and frauds. He has argued several major cases in court, including his successful effort to uphold the Connecticut sex offender registry in the Supreme Court. He has fought and sued the federal government for failing to follow or enforce environmental laws and energy statutes, as well as imposing multimillion dollar unfunded mandates on local taxpayers under the No Child Left Behind Act. From 1977 to 1981, Sen. Blumenthal served as a U.S. Attorney for Connecticut, prosecuting drug trafficking, organized and white collar crime, civil rights violations, consumer fraud, and environmental pollution. He served in the Connecticut House of Representatives from 1984 to 1987, and the Connecticut State Senate from 1987 to 1990. Prior to his position as U.S. Attorney, Sen. Blumenthal also served as Administrative Assistant to Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff, aide to former Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan when Moynihan was Assistant to the President of the U.S., and law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun. Sen. Blumenthal graduated from Harvard College (Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude), and Yale Law School, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the *Yale Law Journal*. From 1970 to 1976 he served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, and was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant.

Richard Carrión Matienzo

Richard Carrión Matienzo is the Managing Director of Apex Capital Partners LLC, a newly formed private equity firm based in San Juan, PR. Through this venture, Mr. Carrión seeks to invest in distressed assets in Puerto Rico, creating value through active participation and management to promote the rebuilding of the local economy. Prior to embarking on this journey, Mr. Carrión devoted the first 12 years of his career to Banco Popular, the largest bank in Puerto Rico and the largest Hispanic bank in the United States. He started at Banco Popular North America (now Popular Community Bank), based in Rosemont, IL, as a Credit Analyst and Commercial Relationship Officer. Then, Mr. Carrión worked at Banco Popular's headquarters in Hato Rey, PR as Commercial Banking Center Manager and, most recently, as the head of Business Development and International Banking. Mr. Carrión has a Bachelor of Arts in Finance and Economics from Fairfield University and a Master of Business Administration in Finance, Accounting and Strategy from the Kellogg School of Management.

José Calderón

José Calderón is President of the Hispanic Federation (HF), the nation's premier Latino non-profit membership organization. Calderón manages HF's overall operations with a primary focus on strategic planning, program development, public policy advocacy and resource development. He is a leading advocate for Hispanic grassroots organizations and pro-Latino legislation locally and nationwide. He has worked in various capacities for the Federation since 2001, including Program Coordinator, Program Director, Vice President and Senior Vice President. During that time, he has helped develop and launch several of HF's most important initiatives including its Latino College Success Program, Workforce Development ABLE project, Board Leadership Development Initiative, DREAMers Scholarship Fund, Diabetes Awareness Campaign, Latino Immigration Task Force, among others. He has also spearheaded HF's civic engagement efforts, helping to register and mobilize hundreds of thousands of voters in key federal and local elections over the last decade. As the Federation's principal spokesperson, Calderón works to disseminate the organization's public policy positions to the media, public officials, the private sector and the community at large. Through public hearings, weekly newspaper columns and Federation-produced radio and television shows, he also works to educate Latinos about issues and services of critical importance to them and their families. Calderón currently serves as Co-Chair of the Immigration Committee of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLEA), a coalition of the leading Latino organizations in the nation. He also serves on the advisory committee for The Aspen Institute's Roundtable on Community Change. A recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, he is most proud and grateful for the continued support and acknowledgments he receives from HF's network of Latino nonprofits. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Hunter College and a Master of Arts Degree from St. John's University with a concentration in Latin American studies, Spanish literature and political science.

Martin Guzman

Dr. Martin Guzman is a Research Associate at Columbia Business School and a Professor of Economics at the University of Buenos Aires. He holds a M.A and a PhD in Economics from Brown University. His research fields are Macroeconomics and Economic Development, with a focus in the study of the resolution of public debt crises. Together with Joseph Stiglitz, he currently co-chairs Columbia University Initiative for Policy Dialogue's Taskforce on *Debt Restructuring and Sovereign Bankruptcy*. He is also a member of the *Institute for New Economic Thinking* Research Group on "Macroeconomic Externalities and Instabilities" based at Columbia University, a non-resident Senior Fellow at the *Centre for International Governance Innovation* (Canada), and a non-resident Senior Fellow at *Espacios Abiertos* and the *Center for a New Economy* of Puerto Rico. He is the editor in chief of the *Journal of Globalization and Development*, one of the most prestigious journals in the fields of economic globalization and development. He has advised the United Nations General Assembly on issues of sovereign debt restructuring and their implications for economic development. His research articles have been published in academic journals and books and have been prominently featured by the international media.

Simon Johnson

Dr. Simon Johnson is the *Ronald A. Kurtz Professor of Entrepreneurship* at the MIT Sloan School of Management, where he is also head of the Global Economics and Management group and chair of the Sloan Fellows MBA Program Committee. He co-founded and currently leads the Global Entrepreneurship Lab (GLAB) course. He also works closely with Joi Ito, head of MIT's Media Lab, on the Digital Currency Initiative (DCI). Specifically, Dr. Johnson supervises research projects related to blockchain technology, and co-teaches a course on this fast-developing business sector. Dr. Johnson is also a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, a cofounder of *BaselineScenario.com*, and a member since inception of the FDIC's Systemic Resolution Advisory Committee. In July 2014, Dr. Johnson joined the Financial Research Advisory Committee of the U.S. Treasury's Office of Financial Research (OFR); he chairs the recently formed Global Vulnerabilities Working Group. Dr. Johnson has been a member of the private sector Systemic Risk Council since it was founded in 2012. From 2009 to 2015, he was a member of the Congressional Budget Office's Panel of Economic Advisers. In March 2016, Dr. Johnson was the third Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Central Bank of Barbados. Over the past decade, Johnson has published more than 300 high impact pieces in the *New York Times*, *Bloomberg*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Republic*, *BusinessWeek*, *The Huffington Post*, *The Financial Times*, and *Project Syndicate*, including "The Quiet Coup." His books include *13 Bankers: the Wall Street Takeover and the Next Financial Meltdown* (with James Kwak) and their follow-up book on U.S. fiscal

policy, *White House Burning: The Founding Fathers, Our National Debt, and Why It Matters for You*. From March 2007 through the end of August 2008, Dr. Johnson was the International Monetary Fund's Economic Counsellor and Director of its Research Department. He also helped to found and run the NBER Africa Project. Dr. Johnson holds a BA in economics and politics from the University of Oxford, an MA in economics from the University of Manchester, and a PhD in economics from MIT.

Mayor María Eloísa (“Mayita”) Meléndez Altieri

Hon. María Eloísa (“Mayita”) Meléndez Altieri, was sworn in as Mayor of Ponce, Puerto Rico on January 12, 2009. She wrote a new page in the history of Puerto Rico when she became the first mayor of Ponce elected by the people. During her first term, Mayor Meléndez became the first woman to preside over the organization for the Integral Development of the South (DISUR). Both in 2012 and in 2016 Mayor Meléndez was reelected as mayor in her second and third terms, respectively. Before becoming Mayor, she began her professional career as a dental surgeon in Ponce for 31 years (1977-2008), standing out both in the clinical area and in education. The commitment to public service and especially to the city of Ponce, impelled Mayor Meléndez to get involved in various boards and committees in which, on a voluntary basis, she offered her advice, practice and knowledge. During her administration as Mayor, she has overseen five signature infrastructure projects under the "Ponce Avanza" initiative worth \$177 million: 1. The Northern Municipal Zone Aqueduct with new water purification plants; 2. Sistema Integrado de Transportación del Sur (SITRAS) mass transit; 3. Parque Ecológico Urbano; 4. Ciudad Deportiva; 5. The restoration of the Juan Bigas Building (old Plaza del Mercado) to convert it into "Ponce Servicios." Mayor Meléndez graduated from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus with a Bachelor of Science in 1973. In 1977, she received the degree of Doctor of Dental Medicine of the School of Dentistry of the Medical Sciences Campus of the University of Puerto Rico.

Marie T. Mora

Dr. Marie Mora is a labor economist at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) and co-author of *Population, Migration, and Socioeconomic Outcomes among Island and Mainland Puerto Ricans: La Crisis Boricua* (Lexington Books, November 2017, with Alberto Dávila and Havidán Rodríguez). Dr. Mora is also associate vice provost for faculty diversity. Her previous publications include the award-winning book *Hispanic Entrepreneurs in the 2000s: An Economic Profile and Policy Implications* (Stanford University Press, 2013, with Dávila), two co-edited volumes, and numerous journal articles and book chapters on Hispanic/Latino socioeconomic outcomes. Dr. Mora has been invited to share her research expertise at institutions and agencies across the country, including the White House and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Her recent awards and recognitions include the 2017 *Inspiring Leaders in STEM Award* from INSIGHT into Diversity magazine, the 2016 *Outstanding Support of Hispanic Issues in Higher Education Award* from the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education, and the 2015 *Cesar Estrada Chavez Award* from the American Association for Access, Equity, and Diversity. She received her PhD, in Economics from Texas A&M University, an MA in Economics from the University of New Mexico, and a BA in Economics, from the University of New Mexico.

Aida Díaz Rivera

Dr. Aida Díaz has been President of the Puerto Rico Teachers Association (AMPR) since December 2001. Since becoming President, she has been awarded and recognized for her leadership. Previously, Dr. Díaz served as Vice President of the AMPR from December 2000 and as Executive President of the Savings and Credit Cooperative of the AMPR (EDUCOOP) between 1987 and 2000. Dr. Díaz was a science teacher in Puerto Rico from 1970 to 1979, year in which she became UniServ State Director for the AMPR, which was then affiliated with the National Education Association. Between 1984 and 1987, Dr. Díaz served as Director of the San Juan Region for the Automobile Accident Compensation Administration (ACAA), a Puerto Rican government agency that compensates individuals and their families for injury or loss of life suffered in car accidents. In 2013, Dr. Díaz earned a Doctorate in Education from the University of Puerto Rico. She previously studied law at the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico in 1982 and earned a Master's in Education from the University of Puerto Rico in 1979.

Betty A. Rosa

Dr. Betty A. Rosa is Chancellor of the State of New York Board of Regents. Born in New York City but raised for the first ten years of her life in Puerto Rico, Dr. Rosa returned to New York City and attended public elementary and junior high schools in the Bronx before graduating from St. Helena's High School. She received a B.A. in psychology from the City College of New York, holds two Master of Science in Education degrees, one in Administration and Supervision and the other in Bilingual Education from the City University of New York, and received an Ed. M. and Ed. D. in Administration, Planning and Social Policy through the Urban Superintendents Program at Harvard University. Dr. Rosa worked as a bilingual teacher and reading coordinator in the New York City school system and also served as an assistant principal and principal in special education before becoming principal of I.S. 218, a *full-service* community school in partnership with the Children's Aid Society. New York City Board of Education Chancellor Rudy Crew appointed Dr. Rosa to the position of Superintendent of Community School District 8 in the Bronx. District 8 consisted of approximately 25,000 students and 30 schools encompassing neighborhoods of the South Bronx. One of the schools Dr. Rosa founded, M.S. 101 (Maritime Academy for Science and Technology), became the number one middle school in the City of New York based on New York State examination results. She also served as the Senior Superintendent of the Bronx. Dr. Rosa was re-elected by New York State Legislators to serve through March 2018 on the Board of Regents and was elected as Chancellor by her fellow Regents in March 2016. She has taught graduate level courses in *Education of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Children*, *Due Process: The Law and the Handicapped*, and is currently teaching *Applied and Action Research* to doctoral students. Dr. Rosa has received many awards for her outstanding service and leadership including the *Champions of Education Award* from the Alliance for Quality Education, the *Woman of the Year Award* from the New York League of Puerto Rican Women, the *Latina of the Year Award* from the Annual SOMOS Conference, and the *Outstanding Leadership Award* from the International Conference on Education, Sustainable Development, Leadership and Policy.

Senator Bernie Sanders

Bernie Sanders is serving his second term in the U.S. Senate after winning re-election in 2012 with 71 percent of the vote. His previous 16 years in the House of Representatives make him the longest serving independent member of Congress in American history. Born in 1941 in Brooklyn, Sen. Sanders attended James Madison High School, Brooklyn College and the University of Chicago. After graduating in 1964, he moved to Vermont. In 1981, he was elected (by 10 votes) to the first of four terms as mayor of Burlington. Sen. Sanders lectured at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and at Hamilton College in upstate New York before his 1990 election as Vermont's at-large member in Congress. *The Almanac of American Politics* calls Sen. Sanders a "practical and successful legislator." Throughout his career he has focused on the shrinking American middle class and the growing income and wealth gaps in the U.S. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Sen. Sanders in 2014 passed legislation reforming the VA health care system. *Congressional Quarterly* said he was able "to bridge Washington's toxic partisan divide and cut one of the most significant deals in years." Today, Sen. Sanders remains on the veterans committee and was tapped by Senate leadership to be the ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee. He also serves on the Environment and Public Works Committee, where he has focused on global warming and rebuilding our nation's crumbling infrastructure. He is a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where he has championed efforts to transform our energy system from fossil fuels to renewable power sources like solar and wind. He also sits on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, where he has fought for greater access to affordable health care and improved education programs from pre-K to college.

Senator Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren, a fearless consumer advocate who has made her life's work the fight for middle class families, was elected to the U.S. Senate on November 6, 2012, by the people of Massachusetts. Sen. Warren is recognized as one of the nation's top experts on bankruptcy and the financial pressures facing middle class families. She is widely credited for the original thinking, political courage, and relentless persistence that led to the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. President Obama asked her to set up the new agency to hold Wall Street banks and other financial institutions accountable, and to protect consumers from financial tricks and traps often hidden in mortgages, credit cards and other financial products. In the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, Sen. Warren served as Chair of the Congressional Oversight Panel for the Troubled Asset Relief Program

(TARP). Her independent and tireless efforts to protect taxpayers, to hold Wall Street accountable, and to ensure tough oversight of both the Bush and Obama Administrations won praise from both sides of the aisle. The *Boston Globe* named Elizabeth Warren Bostonian of the Year and *TIME Magazine* called her a "New Sheriff of Wall Street" for her oversight efforts. Sen. Warren was a law professor for more than 30 years, including nearly 20 years as the Leo Gottlieb Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. The graduating class at Harvard twice recognized her with the Sacks-Freund Award for excellence in teaching. She taught courses on commercial law, contracts, and bankruptcy and wrote more than a hundred articles and ten books, including four national best-sellers, *This Fight is Our Fight*, *A Fighting Chance*, *The Two-Income Trap*, and *All Your Worth*. *National Law Journal* named her one of the Most Influential Lawyers of the Decade, *TIME Magazine* has named her one of the 100 most influential people in the world three times, and she has been honored by the Massachusetts Women's Bar Association with the Lelia J. Robinson Award. Sen. Warren learned first-hand about the economic pressures facing working families, growing up in a family she says was "on the ragged edge of the middle class." She got married at 19, and after graduating from college, started teaching in elementary school. Her first baby, a daughter Amelia, was born when Elizabeth was 22. When Amelia was two, Sen. Warren started law school. Shortly after she graduated, her son Alex was born. She practiced law out of her living room, but she soon returned to teaching. She is a graduate of the University of Houston and Rutgers School of Law.

Randi Weingarten

Randi Weingarten is president of the 1.6 million-member American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, which represents teachers; paraprofessionals and school-related personnel; higher education faculty and staff; nurses and other healthcare professionals; local, state and federal government employees; and early childhood educators. She is also president of the Albert Shanker Institute. Prior to her election as AFT president, Weingarten served for 12 years as president of the United Federation of Teachers, representing approximately 200,000 educators in the New York City public school system, as well as home child care providers and other workers in health, law and education. In 2012-13, Weingarten served on an education reform commission convened by New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, which made a series of recommendations to improve teaching and learning. She was appointed to the Equity and Excellence Commission, a federal advisory committee chartered by Congress to examine and make recommendations concerning the disparities in educational opportunities that give rise to the achievement gap. For 10 years, while president of the UFT, Weingarten chaired New York City's Municipal Labor Committee, an umbrella organization for the city's 100-plus public sector unions, including those representing higher education and other public service employees. As chair of the MLC, she coordinated labor negotiations and bargaining for benefits on behalf of the MLC unions' 365,000 members. From 1986 to 1998, Weingarten served as counsel to UFT president Sandra Feldman, taking a lead role in contract negotiations and enforcement. A teacher of history at Clara Barton High School in Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighborhood from 1991 to 1997, Weingarten helped her students win several state and national awards debating constitutional issues. Weingarten's column "What Matters Most" appears in the *New York Times*. Weingarten holds degrees from Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations and the Cardozo School of Law.