



JOSÉ C. FELICIANO SR.

José C. Feliciano was born in Yauco, Puerto Rico, and was reared on the near West Side of Cleveland. He is a retired partner (2017) in the Cleveland office of the national law firm of Baker & Hostetler LLP, one of the largest law firms in the United States. He was the first Hispanic partner in a major law firm in the city of Cleveland. Prior thereto, he made history by serving as the first major Hispanic public official in the history of the City of Cleveland when he was named Chief Prosecutor (1980-1984) by then-Mayor George Voinovich. The culmination of his public career was Mr. Feliciano's selection and service as a White House Fellow by President Ronald Reagan in 1984.

Earlier in his career, he was a Cuyahoga County Public Defender (1978- 1980) and was an attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland (1975 -1978). He has also been an adjunct professor at John Carroll University (1979 - 1984). He holds a B.A. from John Carroll University, a J.D. from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, and an M.B.A. from Cleveland State University.

A retired American College of Trial Lawyers member, Mr. Feliciano had more than 40 years of experience in complex commercial and employment litigation. His trial experience included business litigation, products liability, construction, shareholders' derivative suits, contracts, eminent domain, and commercial and personal torts. Mr. Feliciano was elected to the College 1995 (the only peer-reviewed trial lawyers organization), he had been consistently listed in Who's Who in American Law, and he was consistently recognized as an Ohio Super Lawyer and listed in The Super Lawyer in Business for Corporate Counsel and Fortune 1000 Decision Makers.

Mr. Feliciano is deeply committed to advancing the Hispanic community. He is a founder and Chairman of the Hispanic Roundtable. He is also the founder and former Chairman of the Hispanic Leadership Development Program and founder of the Hispanic Community Forum, on which he also served as President. Additionally, Mr. Feliciano was a founder of the Ohio

Hispanic Bar Association and served as its first Vice-President. He is a past general counsel for the Spanish- American Committee, the oldest Hispanic social service agency in the state of Ohio

In his role as Chairman of the Hispanic Roundtable, Mr. Feliciano hosted a monthly talk show on El Sol Television, produced by El Sol De Cleveland Hispanic newspaper. Mr. Feliciano and his guests discussed topics relevant to the Hispanic business and civic community of Northeastern Ohio. He was an aperiodic columnist for La Prensa newspaper and an aperiodic book reviewer for the Plain Dealer, the largest daily newspaper in the state of Ohio.

Mr. Feliciano currently sits on the following boards: Hispanic Roundtable (Chairman) and Board of Trustees of the Cleveland Clinic. He also sits as an elected member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association.

Mr. Feliciano has a long history of other community involvement, including service on the boards of the following organizations: John Carroll University (Vice-Chairman), Cuyahoga County Transition Group (Executive Committee), St. John Hospital, American Red Cross, United Way Services, Greater Cleveland Roundtable, Ohio Motorist Association (AAA), Case Western Reserve University Law School Visiting Committee (Chairman), Cleveland-Marshall Law School Visiting Committee, Cleveland Ballet, The Cleveland Children's Museum, New Cleveland Campaign, Spanish-American Committee, Neighborhood Housing Services, National Conference of Christians and Jews, (now known as the Diversity Center), Cleveland Council on World Affairs, WVIZ Public Television, Commission on Economic Inclusion (Executive Committee), and MWV Pinnacle Capital Fund Advisory Board. He held a presidential appointment as a Kent State University Ambassador.

Mr. Feliciano has been equally involved in the Bar. He was the first and only Hispanic president of the Cleveland Bar Association (2000-2001), one of the largest local bar associations in the United States. Mr. Feliciano served on the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association (ABA) from 2001 to 2004, and since 1998 he has been elected every three years on a nationwide basis to the House of Delegates of the ABA, the policymaking body of the ABA and the congress of the legal profession. In addition, he has chaired the Section of Dispute Resolution of the ABA (1996-1997) and has represented the ABA to the National Conference of Commission on Uniform State Laws.

He has served on the ABA's Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary (2006-2010), which reviews all nominees for federal judgeship, including the United States Supreme Court, and reports to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Justice Department, and the White House. He sat on the A.B.A.'s Standing Committee for an Independent Judiciary (2011- 2014). Mr. Feliciano was honored by the American Bar Association in 2005 for His leadership with the "Spirit of Excellence" award, given by its Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession. He is a past Judge of the Court of Nisi Prius (2013), a by-invitation-only legal organization of leading lawyers in Cleveland. He was Chairman of the Advisory Group for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio (2008-2017). He currently sits on

SCOPE in the House of Delegates of the ABA, the governance committee which reviews the structure, function, and work of every entity in the ABA(Chair 2020-2021).

Mr. Feliciano has received several awards and honors for his professional accomplishments. He was initially recognized for his public service in 1983 when, as Chief Prosecutor for the City of Cleveland, he was awarded the Ernest J. Bohn Public Administrator's Award, Public Administrator of the Year in Cuyahoga County. Cleveland State University granted its Distinguished Alumni Award in Law and Business to Mr. Feliciano in 1990. The Cleveland State University Nance College of Business elected him into its Hall of Fame in 2010. The Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association also recognized him as an Alumnus of the Year in 1998, and he was elected to the Cleveland Marshall College of Law Hall of Fame 2018. ORT granted Mr. Feliciano its Jurisprudence Award in 2009 and Crain's Cleveland Business listed him in its "Who's Who in Business" in Cleveland (2010-2015).

In recognition of his community service, the U.S. Jaycees selected Mr. Feliciano as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men in America in 1984, an award received by, among others, John and Robert Kennedy, Henry Kissinger, and Elvis Presley. The American Nationalities Movement granted Mr. Feliciano its civic achievement award in 1990, and the Ohio Commission on Spanish Speaking Affairs recognized Mr. Feliciano in 1996 as a Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan. Nueves Horizontes Newspaper recognized him as its Hispanic of the Year in 2000. The Federal Bar Association granted him its Boots Fisher Civic Achievement Award in the same year when he also received the Hispanic Political Action Committee Civic Award. Mr. Feliciano was inducted into the Cleveland International Hall of Fame in 2012 and received the Multicultural Leadership Award from the National Diversity Council (2014). He received (2014) the Diversity Center Award (formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews), an award given previously to, among others, Bob Hope, Billy Graham, the Honorable Lester Pearson (the 14th Prime Minister of Canada), and Senator George Voinovich. He is a recipient of the John Carroll University medal of honor (2015). In 2016, he was recognized by the National Football League (NFL) for his outstanding leadership to Ohio's Hispanic community. In 2018, he received the Goodness Award from Values-in-Action Foundation.

He is currently a Leader-in-Residence at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and is the recipient of an honorary degree of Doctorate of Humane Letters from Cuyahoga Community College (2021).

Mr. Feliciano, who resides in Chagrin Falls, has been married for 45 years to his wife Molly, and they have three children: José Jr. (44), Rebecca (41), and Marisa (38). In addition, he and Molly have three (3) grandchildren: Ciarán (11), Aoibhe (8), and Mateo (5).