




George Latimer  
County Executive

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the membership of the Westchester County Hispanic Advisory Board:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George Latimer, County Executive of Westchester County, in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Westchester County Charter, appoint Maria I. Valentin, P.O. Box 8015, White Plains, New York as a member of the Westchester County Hispanic Advisory Board, for the term October 18, 2021 to December 31, 2022.

Given under my hand  
and seal this 18<sup>th</sup> day  
of October, 2021.



George Latimer  
County Executive

Office of the County Executive

Michaelinn Office Building  
148 Martine Avenue  
White Plains, New York 10601

Email: [CE@westchestergov.com](mailto:CE@westchestergov.com)  
Telephone: (914)995-2900

[westchestergov.com](http://westchestergov.com)

George Latimer  
County Executive

October 18, 2021

Ms. Maria I. Valentin  
PO Box 8015  
White Plains, NY 10602

Dear Ms. Valentin,

It is my pleasure to appoint you to serve as a member of the Westchester County Hispanic Advisory Board, effective today, Monday, October 18, 2021, pursuant to the Laws of Westchester County §277.461. This appointment is for a term to expire on December 31, 2022.

Your appointment is subject to confirmation by the Westchester County Board of Legislators, but your service begins immediately. You must complete the attached Oath of Office and file it with the County Clerk prior to the next Hispanic Advisory Board meeting, and provide this office with a copy within 30 days. Please contact Martha Lopez of my office at (914) 995-2947 for the date, place, and time of the Hispanic Advisory Board's upcoming meeting for your participation.

When you have filed your Oath of Office, a Resolution to confirm your appointment will be submitted to the County Board of Legislators. As part of the confirmation process, you may be called before the Board to be interviewed.

Pursuant to Local Law, as a member of a Westchester County Board and/or Commission, you are responsible for adhering to the requirements of our Code of Ethics, which includes the annual filing of a financial disclosure statement with the County Board of Ethics. A financial disclosure form is attached.

Warmest wishes for a successful tenure.

Very Truly Yours,



George Latimer  
Westchester County Executive

GL/wm

cc: Honorable Board of Legislators  
Joan McDonald, Director of Operations

Office of the County Executive

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White Plains, New York 10601

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# MARIA I. VALENTÍN

22208 CROMPOND RD.  
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598 USA

MOBILE 914-424-3618  
MVALENTINLAW@GMAIL.COM

## EDUCATION

PACE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, J.D. [INTERNATIONAL LAW CERTIFICATE] 2001  
INTERNATIONAL LAW PROGRAM IN SOUTH AFRICA – UNIV. OF WESTERN CAPE, SO. AFRICA SUMMER 1998  
IONA, MS TEACHING HISTORY 1995  
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, BA HISTORY 1985  
CONCENTRATION IN LATIN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – EDUCATION / LEGAL

**ATTORNEY AT LAW, Westchester, NY** Jan. 2014 – present  
Solo practice in immigration matters. Bar admissions: NY (2003) and NJ (2002)  
**SENIOR ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY** 2008 – present  
Courses: U.S. 20<sup>th</sup> C.; African American History to 1865; History of the Caribbean; World Geography; Immigration Law

## COMMENTARY & PUBLIC SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- **Univision: The Significance of Kamala Harris' Election as Vice President of the US** Jan. 2021
- **Univision: The Significance of Kamala Harris' Nomination as Vice President** Oct. 2020
- **LMC Media: "Hurricane Maria and the relationship between the US and Puerto Rico"** Fall 2017
- **"The Constitutionality of Sanctuary Cities"** Spring 2017
- **CNN: "Donald Trump's accusations of bias against a Mexican-American Judge"** Spring 2016
- **NYCLU / LHV Public Forum: "The Death of Kenneth Chamberlain and the need for Reform"** May 2012
- **NYU Latina of Distinction, Award speech** Oct. 2005
- **Commencement Speaker for WPHS Graduation (as Board of Education member)** June 2005
- **LHV of NYCLU – Board Chair:** Numerous speaking engagements in Westchester County on education, immigration, criminal justice reform, and other issues related to social justice. Moderated panel discussions.
- **Board of Education - Member:** spoke to various constituencies on issues related to education, assessments, funding for public education and programs for the 6500+ children in the District

## PUBLIC SERVICE // ADVOCACY

**NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION [NYCLU] STATE BOARD – Member** Sept. 2013 – 2019  
**NYCLU - LOWER HUDSON VALLEY CHAPTER, Chair** March 2012 – January 2017  
Public speaking on a variety of NYCLU social justice issues; Chaired Board meetings and led team to design and implement community-wide programs and annual Bill of Rights Day and contest for students throughout the region.  
**NYCLU - LOWER HUDSON VALLEY CHAPTER, Member** Sept. 2008 – 2012  
Organized and spoke at public forums on a variety of civil rights issues; particularly with regard to immigration  
**WESTCHESTER COUNTY HISPANIC ADVISORY BOARD, Member** Sept. 2008 – Feb. 2011  
Advised the County Executive on issues and problems facing the Latino community in Westchester Co.  
**WHITE PLAINS BOARD OF EDUCATION, Member** July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2005  
Elected to a 3-year term to determine educational and fiscal policy for the 6500+ children in the city's public schools  
**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION of WHITE PLAINS** Dec. 1999 – September 2002  
Reviewed human rights complaints and other related issues for the city of White Plains

## PAST PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – LAW

**Associate, Young & Bartlett, White Plains, NY** Aug. 2010 – Dec. 2013 (Part-Time)  
Consult with Partners on criminal law and civil rights matters in relation to immigration for clients.  
**Associate, Delgado & Delgado, White Plains, NY** July 2003 – August 2008 (Part-Time)  
Prepared and reviewed applications, motions and briefs for immigration clients. Represented clients in Immigration Court and with the USCIS. Translated legal documents.  
**ASSOCIATE, Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold, NY** NY Sept. 2001 – August 2002  
Researched and analyzed various legal issues relating to insurance coverage and products liability.  
**CORPORATE LEGAL FELLOW, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Lawrenceville, NJ** Summer 2000

Selected from a nationwide search by the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund and Bristol-Myers Squibb to work in the Corporate International Division: researched applicable international law on a variety of corporate international issues (environmental, patent protection, etc.); reviewed memoranda; translated legal documents.

**ROR INTERVIEWER – CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY, Bronx, NY** Oct. 1985 – Oct. 1986  
Interviewed individuals arrested by NYPD to determine their eligibility for ROR (Release On Recognizance).

#### **PAST PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE – EDUCATION**

**Teacher, Scarsdale High School, Scarsdale, NY** Sept. 2002 – June 2020  
Taught Global History I & II, US History, Criminal Justice and Public Policy to 9 – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students; mentored new Teachers. Designed school-wide programs on issues of diversity, criminal justice reform and Immigration. Designed & taught new courses with emphasis on race and social justice: "America on Screen" and Advanced Topics In Constitutional Law. Designed a service trip for students to Ghana to participate in malaria prevention, helping AIDS orphans, a visit to the "slave caves" in Cape Coast, Ghana ("the point of no return") and the US embassy in Accra, Ghana. **Administrative Intern** to the SS Dept. Chair / Asst. Supt. of Personnel (2012-13).

**Teacher, White Plains High School, White Plains, NY** Sept. 1991 – June 2001  
Founder and Advisor of the student Latino Advancement Coalition; Directed several all-school assemblies for Hispanic Heritage Month; Spoke at workshops on issues relevant to Latinos, women, diversity and education Served on taskforces on Multiculturalism, Racism and Equity in Education. Served as a liaison between WPHS and Latino parents / community.

**History/ Research Instructor, PREP for PREP / PREP 9, NY, NY** June 1990 – May 1997  
**Instructor of English, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA** Sept. 1988 – June 1990  
**Teacher, NYC Public Schools, NY, NY** Nov. 1986 – June 1988; 1990-91

#### **AWARDS**

**Teacher Fellow: Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at NYU** 2015-2016  
**National Endowment for the Humanities Grant: SE Asia at the Crossroads of WW II** Summer 2011  
**New York University Award: LATINA OF DISTINCTION** Oct. 2005  
**White Plains Youth Bureau: HISPANIC HERITAGE AWARD** Oct. 2005  
**Corporate Legal Fellow, Puerto Rican Legal Defense & Education Fund [PRLDEF] & Bristol-Myers Squibb** Summer 2000  
**FULBRIGHT-HAYES Award INDIA: Understanding Her Ethos, Teacher Seminar** Summer 1997

#### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Participated in numerous programs sponsored by Yale, NYU, Fulbright Assoc., NY Historical Society, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, MoMA, Facing History & Ourselves, the Scarsdale Teachers Institute (STI). Designed courses for teachers at STI.

#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Federation of Teachers [AFT]; NYS United Teachers [NYSUT]; Princeton Alumni Assoc.; Assoc. of Latino Princeton Alumni (ALPA); Assoc. of Black Princeton Alumni (ABPA); NYS Bar Assoc.; Hispanic National Bar Assoc.; NJ Bar Assoc., American Civil Liberties Union [ACLU]; NY Civil Liberties Union [NYCLU]

#### **INTERESTS**

Travel [Caribbean; Mexico; Central America; South America; Canada; South Pacific; India; Europe; Western, Southern and Northern Africa]; Singing (Soloist with the Princeton University Gospel Choir); National Anthem soloist for the City of White Plains & Pace Univ. School of Law; Photography; Art History; Writing

#### **LANGUAGES**

Spanish (fluent)

**REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

**COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER  
OATH OF OFFICE**

**For Appointees to County Boards and Commissions**

STATE OF NEW YORK )  
 ) ss.:  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER )

I, Maria Valentin do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support  
(Print or Type Name)

the constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the State of New York, and that I will  
faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Hispanic Advisory Board Member in and for the  
County of Westchester, according to the best of my ability.

Date: 11-12-21

Maria Valentin  
(Signature)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12 day of November,  
2021.

Merkinery Bonner

(Signature)

Merkinery Bonner

(Print or Type Name)

Notary Public - State of N.Y

(Title of Official Administering Oath)

**MERKINERY BONNER**  
**NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF NEW YORK**  
**No. 01800402519**  
**Qualified in Westchester County**  
**My Commission Expires 01-08-2024**

Mail original Oath of Office to Office to Andrew Ferris, Office of the County Executive, 148 Martine Ave., Room 916D, White Plains, NY 10601 for filing within thirty (30) days of the commencement of the term of office or the notice of appointment.