

Castellanos & Castellanos Inaugurates New Facilities, Boutique Concept

Noted attorney teams with some of island's foremost legal personalities

BY GABRIEL PARRA BLESSING

With a formidable cast of characters that reads like a veritable Who's Who among Puerto Rico attorneys, the law firm of Castellanos & Castellanos PSC officially opened for business Jan. 1. José Enrique Arrarás, Luis Dávila Colón, Ernie Cabán, and founding partner Alfredo Castellanos, each of whom is a renowned personality and reputed legal expert in his area of practice, form the core of a law firm sure to quickly establish itself as a force to be reckoned with among the island's legal circles. Janice Richardson, Nathalia Ramos Martínez, and Enrique Castellanos round out the firm's all-star roster, even as Castellanos & Castellanos eagerly hopes and waits for the possible addition of yet another brilliant legal mind in the near future.

"People ask me a lot about my father and we have an office ready for him for when he finishes his alleged retirement to give him a warm welcome at Castellanos & Castellanos," Alfredo Castellanos told CARIBBEAN BUSINESS, referring to former Federal U.S. District Court judge Jesús Castellanos, a prominent legal professional in his own right who sat on the federal bench for more than 24 years. "It is obviously subject to his decision, but I believe he feels a strong urge to return to the profession." Castellanos added his father would be the first federal judge to ever come out of retirement to rejoin the legal profession if he were to decide to become a member of the firm.

The founding partner maintained the recognition that larger law firms in Puerto Rico overlook certain key areas of law practice provided the impetus behind the founding of the new firm, as well as his own proliferating, and increasingly overwhelming, case load in his private practice. "We have identified several niches in terms of services I know large law firms in Puerto Rico don't provide," Castellanos continued. "Ours is a very ambitious project, ambitious in so far as it represents more than merely the



From left: Ernie Cabán, José Enrique Arrarás, and Alfredo Castellanos of Castellanos & Castellanos PSC

opening of a new office or the incorporation of new personnel. We want to elevate the level of service, the level of attention, and the level of the kind of results offered to clients who look for legal representation in Puerto Rico."

As an example, he pointed to the fact that criminal-law cases are largely ignored by island law firms, an oversight he wants his law firm to redress. "An unfortunate example in Puerto Rico is that many families, among them those of prominent executives, aren't immune from having one of their family members be faced with legal issues that forces them to confront the judicial system in the criminal area. The vast majority of law firms in Puerto Rico don't deal with criminal cases, which is why I asked Ernie Cabán, an expert in criminal law, to come on board."

"I find the idea behind this law firm to be a truly exceptional one," Cabán added. "I don't know of any law firm that handles criminal cases. As Alfredo said, we aren't exempt from having one of our children get into legal trouble. I found his idea of establishing a boutique law firm dedicated to offering services otherwise ignored by larger firms to be extremely interesting and compelling, so I accepted his invitation to join." Cabán is well known for having successfully prosecuted the people's domestic-violence case against actor Osvaldo Ríos after the case hung in legal limbo for almost seven years and a prior trial produced a hung jury. Prior to joining Castellanos & Castellanos, Cabán represented producer Topy Mameri,

model Maripilli Rivera, and reggaetón artist Julio Voltio, among others, in private practice.

Besides relying on Cabán's expertise in criminal-law cases, Castellanos & Castellanos counts on Arrarás's extensive experience in government both as legislator in the House of Representatives for 16 non-consecutive years between 1978 and 1996 as well as secretary of Housing from 1973 to 1976. For his part, Luis Dávila Colón can intervene in crisis-management cases for

corporations and prominent executives and individuals thanks to his wide-ranging understanding of the media and the law as a best-selling author and highly rated political commentator for radio and television, he said. Alfredo Castellanos, meanwhile, has logged more than six million miles of air travel during his eventful career, traveling to more than 100 countries on behalf of clients in the corporate world as well as in the field of arts and entertainment. As an expert litigator, he has filed suit and successfully concluded legal proceedings for his clients against the likes of Don King and Michael Jackson.

On January 26, Castellanos & Castellanos will host an opening cocktail to inaugurate its new offices on Calle San Jorge in San Juan. n

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