

**GARCIA & FERNANDEZ  
LAW OFFICES**

33 Bolivia Street, Suite 701  
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00917-2010  
Tel. (787) 764-1932 Fax (787) 766-2132  
E-mail: [gflaw@gflawpr.com](mailto:gflaw@gflawpr.com)

**FIRM PROFILE**

Established in 1987, Garcia & Fernandez Law Offices has become a full-service law firm, with practice areas that encompass the full legal and regulatory spectrum that affects new and existing businesses in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Our litigation background and our practical knowledge and application of local laws and regulations, together with our experience with regulatory agencies help us achieve efficient and innovative solutions for our clients.

Our civil practice serves a broad range of client needs in areas of general and commercial litigation, telecommunications law, corporate law, banking law, real estate, labor and employment law, collection and foreclosures and taxation and tax exemption laws. As part of our extensive litigation practice, we provide our clients with assistance in the fields of appellate practice, administrative and zoning litigation, bankruptcy law, admiralty, collections and federal criminal defense. Our labor and employment practice handles litigation in both federal and local courts, including wage and hour and fringe benefits, Family and Medical Leave Act, discrimination, sexual harassment, workers' compensation and safe workplace issues, including OSHA, severance pay, meal hour claims and others. In our corporate law practice we offer knowledge and experience in general corporate and commercial transactions, real estate matters including construction law, zoning and administrative proceedings and litigation, telecommunications regulations, banking law and transactional law. Finally, our tax and tax exemptions practice covers industrial, service and tourism tax incentive and exemption programs, and other state and local taxation matters such as municipal license taxes, property taxes and Puerto Rico income taxation, including administrative audit and review support and tax related litigation.

At present **GARCIA & FERNANDEZ LAW OFFICES** is composed of thirteen (13) attorneys:

***STOCKHOLDER***

***SENIOR PARTNER:*** JOHN M. GARCIA NOKONECHNA

***SENIOR COUNSEL:*** EDGARDO MUÑOZ MALDONADO

***PARTNERS:*** VIVIANA RODRIGUEZ ORTIZ, JUAN A. LOPEZ CONWAY,  
JEANNETTE MARINA NEGRON RAMIREZ, JUAN D. GARCÍA  
CHAMORRO AND DANIEL GARCÍA CHAMORRO

***COUNSELS:*** LUIS ESPADA PLATET AND JENIFFER ODELL GONZÁLEZ

***ASSOCIATES:*** DONNA A. MALDONADO RIVERA, WILLIAM LOPEZ-MENDEZ,  
MILDRED L. SANTANA MEJIAS Y LAURA I. TORO SARRAGA

Current hourly fees: Partners and Counsel \$175.00-\$325.00/ Associates \$150.00/\$200.00. Following is a short description of Attorneys.

**JOHN M. GARCIA NOKONECHNA:**

**Stockholder, Senior Partner;** is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, since 1970. He is also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, the U.S. Court of International Trade, the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. He graduated *Cum Laude* from the University of Puerto Rico Law School and was a member of the Law Review. He obtained his undergraduate degree at Tulane University in New Orleans. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Federal Bar Association and served as a member of the Bar Admission Examination Committee of the Commonwealth Supreme Court. He was a Law Clerk for a U.S. District Judge and served as United States Magistrate until 1977. From 1995 until 1997 he was a member of the Advisory Committee on Rules for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. He has been in private practice specializing in Corporate litigation, Business Torts, Bankruptcy Law, reorganizations, labor and human resources, and related litigation, real estate development and zoning litigation and affordable housing, telecommunications and "White Collar" Federal Criminal Law.

E-mail: [jmgarcia@gflawpr.com](mailto:jmgarcia@gflawpr.com)

**EDGARDO MUÑOZ:**

**Counsel;** concentrates his practice in bankruptcy cases, representing creditors, trustees, and debtors. Mr. Muñoz served as law clerk in the Bankruptcy Court for the District of P.R. until 1986. Since 1989, he has been teaching bankruptcy law at Inter American University School of Law and has lectured on courses and seminars sponsored by IAU, the Federal Bar Association, Puerto Rico Bar Association, the Puerto Rico Bankruptcy Bar and the National Business Institute. Board Certified (Business Bankruptcy Law) by the American Bankruptcy Board of Certification in 1994; Mr.

Muñoz received his B.A. degree, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Puerto Rico (1975) and his J.D. degree, *cum laude*, from the University of Puerto Rico School of Law (1978). He is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico (1979), and the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit (1984). He has also practiced (*pro hac vice*) before the US Bankruptcy Court and US District Court for the Middle District of Florida. Mr. Muñoz has served as Vice-President of the P.R. Bankruptcy Bar Association, as a member of the Bar Admission Examination Committee of the Commonwealth Supreme Court and was appointed in 1991 to the Local Bankruptcy Rules Committee for the District of P.R.

E-mail: [emunoz@emunoz.net](mailto:emunoz@emunoz.net)

**VIVIANA RODRIGUEZ-ORTIZ:**

**Partner;** graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Puerto Rico Law School in 1988. She is admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, U.S. District Court and Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. She served as law clerk for Puerto Rico Supreme Court Judge Miriam Naveira. She has a Masters degree in law in taxation from the University of Florida and a Masters Degree in Economics from the University of Puerto Rico. She worked for the Federal Litigation Division of the Puerto Rico Justice Department from 1990 to 1993 handling bankruptcy and tax matters and does corporate and tax law and commercial litigation.

E-mail: [vrodriquez@gflawpr.com](mailto:vrodriquez@gflawpr.com)

**JUAN A. LOPEZ-CONWAY:**

**Partner;** graduated from Furman University (B.A. Europe History May, 1978), and The University of Puerto Rico School of Law J.D. *Cum Laude*, 1982. Mr. López was admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico 1984, the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico 1984, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit 1984, and the U. S.

Court of Federal Claims 1986. Upon graduation from law school, Mr. López served from 1982-1984 as a law clerk for U. S. District Judge Juan R. Torruella, now Chief Judge of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Mr. López gained extensive experience in case management, legal research, and drafting while serving as a law clerk.

After concluding his clerkship, Mr. López has engaged in the general practice of civil law with particular emphasis on admiralty law, insurance law, transportation law, and commercial litigation.

Mr. López has experience in representing vessel interests and maritime underwriters in marine casualties throughout the Caribbean and Central America. Mr. López is a member of the Puerto Rico Bar Association and is a Proctor in Admiralty member of the Maritime Law Association of the United States. Mr. López was President of the Propeller Club of the United States, Port of San Juan. Mr. López is fluent in English, Spanish and has working knowledge of French.

E-mail: [jlopez@gflawpr.com](mailto:jlopez@gflawpr.com)

#### **JEANNETTE MARINA NEGRON -RAMIREZ:**

*Partner*; Graduated from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, Law School, in 1991. Admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico. She worked at the Labor Department of Goldman, Antonetti and Córdova Law Firm from 1995 to 1997. She worked as an Administrative Law Judge for the Puerto Rico Labor Relations Board from 1994 to 1995. She worked for the General Litigation Division of the Puerto Rico Justice Department from 1992 to 1994 handling judicial and administrative matters. She is a member of the Puerto Rico Bar Association, Inter-American University Law School Alumni Association and Association of Labor Relations' Practitioners.

e-mail: [jmnegron@gflawpr.com](mailto:jmnegron@gflawpr.com)

#### **JUAN D. GARCIA-CHAMORRO:**

*Partner*; graduated from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico Law School, in 1996. Admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico in 1997, U.S. District Court and Court

of Appeals for the First Circuit. He obtained his undergraduate degree in Politics and History from Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts. He is a member of the American Bar Association and Puerto Rico Bar Association. Practice Areas: Collection of Money, Mortgage Loan, Civil Litigation, Bankruptcy and Commercial Litigation. E-mail: [juandgarcia@gflawpr.com](mailto:juandgarcia@gflawpr.com)

#### **DANIEL GARCIA-CHAMORRO:**

*Partner*; graduated from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico Law School, in 1996. Admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico in 1997, U.S. District Court and Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. He obtained his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico.

He is a member of the American Bar Association, Puerto Rico Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, Puerto Rico Public Notaries Association. Practice Areas: Real Estate Development, Real Estate Closings, Mortgage Law, Notary Public, Construction Law, Civil Litigation.

E-mail: [dgarcia@gflawpr.com](mailto:dgarcia@gflawpr.com)

#### **LUIS ESPADA-PLATET**

*Counsel*; Admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico since 1973. He is also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States of America. He obtained his Juris Doctor degree from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Law and a Master of Laws degree in International and Comparative Law from the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. Mr. Espada-Platet practiced law in San Juan,

P.R. and Washington, D.C. before joining the U.S. Department of State. He worked in Washington, D.C., as well as in several U.S. Embassies in Latin America and Europe. He was a member of the U.S. delegation to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Program in New York and Geneva. While working for the State Department, he was invited to lecture at several foreign universities and Foreign Ministries' Diplomacy Schools. He is fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese.  
E-mail: [lespada@gflawpr.com](mailto:lespada@gflawpr.com)

#### **JENNIFER ODELL-GONZÁLEZ:**

**Counsel;** graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Puerto Rico Law School in 1996. Admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, and also admitted as a Notary Public, in 1997. Also admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, and the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Obtained her undergraduate degree in Broadcast Journalism with a concentration in Economics from Boston University, in 1990. She is a member of the Puerto Rico Bar Association, Public Notaries' Association. Practice Areas: Collection of Funds, Mortgage Loans, Civil and Commercial Litigation.  
E-mail: [jodell@gflawpr.com](mailto:jodell@gflawpr.com)

#### **DONNA ALEXA MALDONADO-RIVERA:**

**Associate;** graduated from the University of Puerto Rico School of Law, in 1999. Admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and as a Notary Public in 2000. She was admitted to the United States Court for the District of Puerto Rico in 2002. Honored Member Empire Who's Who of Executives and Professionals, 2006-2007 Edition. She is a member of the Puerto Rico Bar

Association and the American Bar Association. She obtained her undergraduate degree *cum laude* in Labor Relations from the University of Puerto Rico in 1996. Ms. Maldonado concentrates in civil, commercial and labor law litigation. She is fluent in English and Spanish.  
E-mail: [dmaldonado@gflawpr.com](mailto:dmaldonado@gflawpr.com)

#### **WILLIAM LOPEZ-MENDEZ**

**Associate;** graduated from the Inter-American University school of Law in San Juan PR on June 2005. Admitted to practice before the Puerto Rico Supreme Court in January 2006, Notary Public in March 2006. Before joining the firm he was a solo practitioner. As a student he worked as a teaching assistant for professor Wilmai Rivera. He obtained his bachelor's degree in Politics from the University of Puerto Rico – Cayey. Member of the Puerto Rico Bar Association.  
E-mail: [wlopez@gflawpr.com](mailto:wlopez@gflawpr.com)

#### **MILDRED L. SANTANA MEJIAS**

**Associate;** born in Santurce, Puerto Rico, July 27, 1965; admitted to bar, 1997, Puerto Rico and U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit; 1998 U.S. District Court, District of Puerto Rico. Notary Public, 1997. Education: University of Puerto Rico (B.B.A., Accounting, Magna Cum Laude, 1987); Carnegie Mellon University (M.S., Public Management and Policy, 1991); University of Puerto Rico School of Law (J.D., Dec. 1996). Recipient, Scholarship Charles Mundo, Carnegie Mellon University; National Hispanic Scholarship Fund; Honorary Registration, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. Member: Puerto Rico and American Bar Associations. LANGUAGES: Spanish and English. PRACTICE AREAS: Civil Litigation; Commercial Litigation; Labor and Employment Law; Construction Law.

E-mail: [msantana@gflawpr.com](mailto:msantana@gflawpr.com).

**LAURA I. TORO SÁRRAGA:**

*Associate*; just recently joined the firm. In early 2008 she was admitted to the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico by the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico and since then she has been a member of the Puerto Rico Bar Association and the American Bar Association. Ms. Toro completed her Juris Doctor at the Inter American School of Law in 2006. Her Bachelor's Degree she obtained from Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1997, with a degree in History and Political Science. For the moment, she is specializing in civil litigation and notary law.

E-mail: [ltoro@gflawpr.com](mailto:ltoro@gflawpr.com)