

## HNBA Corporate Counsel Division Election Slate 2021-22 Slate

### Candidate for Chair

#### Conchita Valenzuela

Greetings Corporate Counsel Division Members!

I would be honored to serve the Division as Chair for the 2021-2022 term. Thank you for taking the time to review my candidate statement.

I have had the pleasure of serving as the Division Vice Chair for the 2020-2021 term alongside our Chair, Juan Sempregui and cannot thank him enough for his leadership and dedication all of these years. Anyone who knows Juan knows that he is deeply committed to paying it forward and brings a joyful and welcoming spirit to the Division and the legal community. Thank you, Juan!

Despite the challenges faced due to COVID and our inability to meet in person, our Division has continued to remain active and engaged. Thank you to all of you who have continued to log-on to the monthly meetings, have served as mentors, Charla facilitators, and Summer Host Companies for HNBA law student interns.

It has also been exciting to see our members featured in our newly launched member of the week series on LinkedIn. **\*\*Please reach out if you have not been featured and would like to be featured. Video features are the most popular! \*\***

A few of the initiatives I would work to maintain and expand include:

- **Continue our Charla Series:** We hope to continue to cover topics in this informal setting that are helpful and relevant to the Division. We also hope to have more member lead Charlas because we have a lot of great experts among us!
- **Continue Growing our Network:** Work to increase membership to grow our network and continue to host virtual meet-ups.
- **Continuing and Expanding Pipeline Projects:** Continue to increase law student exposure to the practice of in-house, and help them start building their network early in their careers\*\*. Let's make CCD a resource for attorneys, those in private practice and those newly admitted, to get their foot in the door and join us in-house!

I hope to see everyone at our next monthly meeting. Let's connect on LinkedIn and please feel free to reach out to me with any questions ([Conchita.Valenzuela@gmail.com](mailto:Conchita.Valenzuela@gmail.com)).

**\*\* We are always collecting opportunities to list in our Summer 2022 Law Student In-House Internship Directory please email me (Conchita.valenzuela@gmail.com) if you have an opportunity to add OR if you would like to connect about establishing a summer law student internship for Summer 2022**

## **Candidate for Chair-Elect**

**Ivana Kriznic**

Dear Mr. Chair, Committees Members and fellow Division Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to present my candidate statement for Chair-Elect for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Since December 2020 I have had the pleasure of serving as Co-Secretary, gaining hands-on experience on how the Division works and learning from the current leadership. As Co-Secretary I have kept minutes of meetings and overall collaborated with initiatives to drive members' engagement and to show the value of the HNBA to in-house attorneys. I have supported the Chair Juan Sempertegui, the Co-Chair Conchita Valenzuela and coordinated closely with the Co-Secretary Noeli Serna. We have hosted monthly all hands video calls where attendees got to know each other personally and professionally and learnt about upcoming HNBA programs and events. To support in-house counsels' professional development, select outside counsels were invited to a series of informal gatherings on hot legal topics where they shared best practice with participants. We have also celebrated members' professional accomplishments on social media and posted a "Member of Week" profile.

As Chair-Elect, I am committed to support the Chair and work closely with the Secretary and Treasurer to continue the success of these programs, pursue other duties as needed, and create new initiatives in line with the HNBA mission.

Personally I want to achieve two objectives during my tenure. The first one is to promote Hispanic in-house legal professionals' talents and achievements and help attorneys new to in-house and during career transitions. The second and very important one is to encourage my colleagues at the Division to continue to be mentors and to pay it forward to Latinx law students who may not have role models or access to in-house internships or positions. As some of you may know, I grew up in Argentina and when I emigrated to America, it was not easy to find the proverbial "first job".

Thank you for your consideration and your vote. I will be honored to serve as Chair-Elect 2021-22.

## **Candidates for Treasurer**

### **Janneth Lanini**

Fellow CCD Members,

I would be greatly honored to serve as the CCD's Treasurer for the upcoming 2021-2022 year. Being an in-house attorney was a long-term career goal of mine, and I was able to make that a reality just last year. I formally joined as a member once I started my in-house role. Since joining, the CCD provided me with great networking opportunities, and the ability to gain insight knowledge from some of the more experienced CCD members. As someone new to an inhouse role, having the ability to reach out to the CCD network and being able to access a wealth of knowledge is invaluable.

If selected for the Treasurer position, I will continue to grow the strength of the CCD, by support the initiatives of the Chair and Chair-Elect, as well ensuring that the CCD has the appropriate planning for funds for those initiatives. In particular, I will work to continue to grow our network by strengthening the pipeline program for not only law students, but those that are interested in going in-house. I would also advocate to continue to expanding our mentoring networking events, which have been a great success despite the COVID-19 pandemic challenges. The strength is truly in our network.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. If I have not met you personally, please do not hesitate to connect with me on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jlanini>

**Scott W. Linek**  
**Nationwide**  
**Chief Trademark/IP Counsel**



I attended my first HNBA Annual convention as a law student in 1996 and became a Benjamin Aranda Lifetime member over 10 years ago. I strongly believe in the HNBA Mission and the goals and programs of the Corporate Counsel Division (CCD). I know many of you from my attendance at the HNBA Annual Convention and my involvement with the CCD over the years. I hope I have the privilege to serve as your Treasurer for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

My undergraduate degree is in Business Administration/Accounting and I graduated from Marquette University Law School in 1997. I spent the first few years of my practice in Los Angeles handling tax controversy matters for Arthur Andersen. I then joined a law firm in La Jolla, CA to diversify my practice beyond tax, and I handled general corporate and intellectual property matters. For the past 16 years, I have been in-house IP counsel at Nationwide, a Fortune 100 insurance and financial services company. I am often described as a lawyer that likes numbers. I enjoy analyzing, tracking, and sharing data in Excel schedules and regularly seek out roles where I can leverage this interest/skill.

If elected as your Treasurer, I will diligently serve the CCD and greater HNBA to ensure the safekeeping of the funds of the Division.

## **Candidate for Secretary**

### **Noeli Serna**

Mr. Chairman and HNBA Corporate Counsel Division Members:

Thank you for your consideration for the honor of serving as the Secretary of the HNBA Corporate Counsel Division (the “CCD”) for the 2021-2022 term. It has been a pleasure serving as Co-Secretary alongside Chair Juan Sempertegui, Vice Chair Conchita Valenzuela and Co-Secretary Ivana Kriznic this past term, and together we have increased the visibility of the CCD across multiple platforms and further developed programming initiatives for our members. If elected Secretary, I would work with my team-elect to continue developing the following:

- **Charla Series** – The 2020-2021 Charla Series was very successful and forged valuable relationships between our members and HNBA outside counsel. I would work with our team and the CCD membership to find further legal topics of interest and plan more Charlans focused on professional development, such as a mini series on contract review and drafting, resume/cover letter workshops, tips/tricks for in-house counsel and programs focused on presentation skills. •
- **Mentorship Initiatives** – Conchita has done a fabulous job pairing Latinx law students with CCD members that have expressed an interest in mentoring law students. I would work with the team-elect to expand and further formalize this mentorship program. I also think there is enormous value in mentorship within the in-house community and would love to implement a “New to In-house” mentorship program for the CCD, where our more seasoned in-house CCD members are paired with “newer” CCD in-house counsel attorneys.

• **Social Media** – Our membership has grown this past year due in some part to our active social media presence and “Member of the Week” profiles. I would continue to capitalize on social media platforms such as LinkedIn to further expand the CCD’s visibility.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to seeing the CCD only flourish and grow. Our strength is in our community and people, and I am proud and grateful to be a part of the CCD community!

Please feel free to connect with me on LinkedIn and reach out with any suggestions or questions ([nserna1990@gmail.com](mailto:nserna1990@gmail.com)).

Atentamente,

Noeli Serna