

The
WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
celebrates
**HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH**

Monday, September 30, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Live streamed from the Board Chamber
<https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>

PROGRAM

Welcoming Remarks and Acknowledgements
Board Chair Vedat Gashi

Presentation of Proclamations to



WILSON SOTO, ESQ.

Presented by Vice Chair José I. Alvarado, Legislator



KARINE PATIÑO, ESQ.

Presented by Legislator Erika L. Pierce

[see back for more]

Vedat Gashi
Board Chair
Legislator, 4th District

Colin D. Smith
Legislator, 1st District

Erika L. Pierce
Legislator, 2nd District

Margaret A. Cunzio
Minority Leader
Legislator, 3rd District

Benjamin Boykin II
Legislator, 5th District

Nancy E. Barr
Legislator, 6th District

Catherine F. Parker
Legislator, 7th District

Jewel Williams Johnson
Legislator, 8th District

Emiljana Ulaj
Legislator, 9th District

Judah Holstein
Legislator, 10th District

Terry Clements
Majority Whip
Legislator, 11th District

David Imamura
Legislator, 12th District

Tyrae Woodson-Samuels
Majority Leader
Legislator, 13th District

David J. Tubiolo
Legislator, 14th District

James Nolan
Minority Whip
Legislator, 15th District

Shanae V. Williams
Legislator, 16th District

José I. Alvarado
Vice Chair
Legislator, 17th District





WILSON SOTO, ESQ., was born in Yonkers, New York, to Puerto Rican parents. He graduated from Gorton High School in 1984 before serving honorably in the U.S. Army, where he was assigned to the elite 7th Special Forces Group and received numerous commendations.

He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Manhattan College in 1993 with a Bachelor of Arts in government studies, then earned his Juris Doctor from Pace University School of Law in 1998, graduating Cum Laude. He is licensed to practice law in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

In 2001, Soto was appointed by Mayor John Spencer to the Yonkers City Council, serving as Chair of the Community Services Committee and representing about 33,000 constituents. He was instrumental in establishing the South Broadway Business Improvement District, which enhanced economic development in the area.

Currently, Soto is the principal of Wilson Soto & Associates P.C. in Scarsdale, New York, where he focuses on family law and represents the underrepresented Hispanic community in Westchester County. He is committed to providing pro-bono legal services and actively contributes to various community organizations.

A lifelong Yonkers resident, Soto remains dedicated to giving back to his community.



KARINE PATIÑO, ESQ., is a dedicated leader in the Mount Kisco community, where she has significantly impacted the lives of residents, particularly among Latino families, as a first-generation American and daughter of Ecuadorian immigrants. A graduate of Pace University with a degree in Political Science, she is committed to enhancing community relations and access to vital services.

As the Program Coordinator for the PACT (Police and Community Together) initiative, Patiño collaborated with the Mount Kisco Police Department and local organizations to provide cultural competency training for over 300 officers, fostering trust and communication within the community. As the first Latina elected as Mount Kisco Village Trustee, she advocated for translating Village Board meetings into Spanish and worked tirelessly to secure culturally competent mental health services for residents, especially those in need.

Patiño partnered with County Legislator Erika Pierce to host the first Latino Community Mental Health roundtable, bringing together local organizations to address the unique mental health needs of the Latino community in Mount Kisco.

Currently, as an Associate Attorney at the Legal Aid Society, Patiño passionately serves clients facing complex criminal cases, advocating for justice and systemic reforms that benefit marginalized populations. Her bilingual skills have led to a review of over 200 cases for accurate translations, highlighting her commitment to ensuring fair representation for all.

Patiño also co-chairs the Diversity Committee of the Westchester County Bar Association, where she promotes inclusivity within the legal profession. Her dedication has earned her recognition as one of the 40 Under 40 Rising Stars by The Hispanic Coalition of New York.

As a mother to her daughter, Mila, who attends a dual-language school, Patiño is devoted to inspiring the next generation to engage in advocacy and community service. Through her work, she continues to empower her community and ensure that all voices, especially those of underrepresented residents, are heard.