

Advocacy Award

*For Outstanding Efforts in Support of
AILA's Legislative Agenda*



**Recipient: Mario M. Ramos
Mario Ramos, PLLC
Nashville, TN**

AILA is pleased to recognize AILA Member Mario Ramos with the 2009 Advocacy Award. Mario, and his enthusiastic commitment to AILA Advocacy and the promotion of positive immigration reform, shines brightly among our association's top activists. With each successive legislative battle for comprehensive immigration reform (CIR) in Congress, Mario consistently, and tirelessly, works to develop positive working relationships with key members of the policy making community. In late 2005, just after the passage of the dreaded HR 4437 Sensenbrenner bill, Mario asserted himself as an AILA activist prepared to fight for something positive in the Senate and, most importantly, he wanted to win. He declared that we needed to work with our opposition to educate them about the need to fix our broken system.

By applying networking techniques to advocacy, he determinedly met with his Tennessee Senators and their staffs, professional colleagues, and sometimes even their relatives, to hammer home the need for reform. He came to AILA's inaugural National Day of Action where he met with new activists and energized them with his passion for reform. Mario recommitted, and redoubled, his energy when the immigration debate was twice resurrected in the Senate. He worked with new coalition partners to broadcast the message that now is the time for CIR.

In 2008, when most immigration activists were discouraged, Mario was working hard in Nashville to rebuild his network and the strength of the immigration movement. He prepared for the election season by working to engage voters and encourage them to vote for pro-immigration candidates. He also successfully used social media to organize the defeat of an early 2009 referendum that would make English the official language of the city of Nashville.

Mario is a dependable and committed activist who we are honored to recognize with the Advocacy Award for Outstanding Efforts in Support of AILA's Legislative Agenda.

Mario has been an AILA member since 1998. He has a full-service immigration law firm in Nashville, Tennessee, handling U.S. immigration law. He has worked with clients in nearly all 50 states and more than 80 countries around the world since 1987. Mario and his staff are fully bilingual in English and Spanish.

Mario has been an active participant in Tennessee civic, business, and political affairs. He is on the Executive Committee of the Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the MTSU National Board Scholars Academy, and Former Chair of the Immigration Committee of the Nashville Bar.

Mario received an LL. M. (Master of Laws) London School Economics Political Science, England 1987; J.D. (Juris Doctor) California Western School of Law, San Diego 1986; Scholarship/Diploma Hague Academy International Law, Hague, Netherlands 1985; Certificado de Asistencia Universidad Complutense, Madrid, Spain 1983; Diploma Alliance Française, Paris, France 1982; Diploma College International de Cannes 1981; B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) University of Tennessee, Knoxville 1981.

Mario is happily married to Iris Ramos and proud parent of Maximiliano Manuel Ramos and Alexandro Andres Ramos.