

Hon. Lourdes M. Ventura

Biography

Lourdes M. Ventura is currently serving as a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York in the 11th Judicial District (Queens County) and is sitting in the Civil Term. In 2019, Justice Ventura served as a Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York in Queens County.

Prior Justice Ventura's service on the bench, she was a partner at the law firm of Ahmuty, Demers & McManus which specializes in all aspects of civil litigation, with a clientele that includes a diverse group of corporations, insurance companies, small businesses, municipalities, school districts, third party administrators and individuals.

Justice Ventura is a former Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office where she prosecuted cases and investigated complaints involving discrimination in housing, education and other areas.

Justice Ventura is also a former prosecutor for the Queens District Attorney's Office where she prosecuted and investigated misdemeanor and felony drug charges, economic fraud and various street crime cases. She also prepared appellate briefs and argued several appeals before the Appellate Division Second Department.

Additionally, Justice Ventura previously served in the New York State Senate in various capacities, including Special Counsel to the New York State Senate Majority Conference, Counsel for Latino and Immigrant Affairs and Deputy Chief of Staff overseeing the Policy and Finance departments.

Justice Ventura was the first Latina to serve as an officer of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York and was the first Latina to serve as President of the venerable Queens County Women's Bar Association. Justice Ventura is also past President of the Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County. Under her leadership Latino Lawyers was the recipient of the 2005 Award of Merit for local bar associations from the New York State Bar Association for its work with the Street Law en Español Program. The organization also received a special recognition award from the Queens District Attorney's Office during her tenure as president.

Justice Ventura also served on the Grievance Committee for the Queens County Bar Association as well as the Board of Trustees for the Queens Supreme Court Law Library.

A mother and lifelong Queens resident, Justice Ventura has been involved in several local civic organizations. Justice Ventura was featured in Quisqueya Life, a Dominican news publication that detailed her achievements as one of four women of Dominican heritage with political power in New York. Congressman Charles Rangel (D-Harlem) read the article into the Congressional Record on May 15, 2003.

Justice Ventura has been the recipient of numerous local, and state, awards and citations for exemplary community service and outstanding citizenship. On March 6, 2020, Justice Ventura was the recipient of a Medal of Merit bestowed by the President of the Dominican Republic in celebration of International Women's Day.

Justice Ventura is a graduate of the SUNY Buffalo Law School and is an emeritus member of the Dean's Advisory Council. She is admitted to the state bar in both New York and the District of Columbia. She is also admitted to the federal bar in the Southern, Eastern, and Western districts of New York State and is admitted to the United States Supreme Court.

Justice Ventura looks forward to continuing her service to the bench, bar and community.