

# RUBEN R. PEREZ

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## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

*Southwest Texas State University* • Bachelor of Science Degree 1974

*London School of Economics* • International Law Studies 1978

*Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law* • Doctorate of Jurisprudence 1980

Academic Honors: Dean's List TMSL 1978 - 1980

American Jurisprudence Awards: Remedies, Sales, and Professional Responsibility

## PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### ***Assistant District Attorney***

February 2017 to Present

Harris County District Attorney's Office

### ***Bureau Chief-Special Crimes Bureau***

- Responsible for supervising the Major Offender Division, Gangs/Organized Crime Division, Robbery and Burglary Division Section, Financial Crimes Division, Cyber Crimes Section, Consumer Fraud Section, Money Laundering Division, Major Narcotics Division, and Vehicular Crimes Division

### ***Assistant United States Attorney***

June 1992 – February 2017

United States Department of Justice

Southern District of Texas • Houston, Texas

### ***Chief - Human Trafficking/Civil Rights Unit***

February 1999 – February 2017

- Responsible for enforcing criminal civil rights laws designed to preserve personal liberties; enforcement of the provisions of the 1968 Civil Rights Act; enforcement of election laws; and enforcement of human trafficking statutes and slavery statutes
- Duties include: reviewing case referrals from private citizens, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of Inspector General, the Multi-Agency Hate Crimes Task Force, and various task forces; coordinating educational seminars for multiple law enforcement and non-governmental agencies for Civil Rights and Human Trafficking; and evaluating, indicting, prosecuting, and trying cases involving the same
- **Senior Litigation Counsel for the Southern District of Texas**
- **District Election Officer**
- **Southern District of Texas Deputy Coordinator for the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance**
  - August 2004: Founded a task force of local, state and federal law enforcement and non-governmental agencies mandated to investigate and prosecute human traffickers
- **Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager**

### ***Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force***

1992 - 1999

- Responsible for the prosecution of international crime organizations, which trafficked in large scale quantities of narcotics and intricate money laundering schemes
- Duties included working with various law enforcement agencies such as FBI, DEA, IRS, ATF, ICE, and task forces involving these agencies and interaction with local law enforcement. Duties also included evaluating cases, handling pretrial motions, indicting, preparing for

trial, and prosecuting cases through the use of Title III Wire Interceptions, electronic digital paging devices, and other related electronic surveillance aids

**Assistant District Attorney** 1981 - 1992

Harris County District Attorney's Office • Houston, Texas

**Chief Prosecutor Criminal District Court** 1986 - 1992

- Duties included the prosecution of all state felonies such as capital murders, murders, aggravated robberies, aggravated sexual assaults, and burglaries. Prosecuted thousands of cases and tried 100+ jury trials along with many court trials
- Duties also included evaluating cases for prosecutorial merit, researching the law, supervising and training over thirty junior prosecutors, and public affairs duties for many high profile cases
- **Special Assignment: Special Crimes Drug Task Force**
  - Duties included evaluating cases, researching the law, prosecuting major drug traffickers and coordinating with the news media in significant high profile cases

**Assistant City Attorney** 1980 - 1981

City of Houston Municipal Courts

**Prosecutor**

- Class C Misdemeanors

**Law Clerk** 1979 - 1980

Reyes and Barrera Law Firm • Houston, Texas

- Responsible for legal research, drafting legal documents, proofing, filing, and clerking duties

**Assistant Director** January 1977 - August 1977

Southside Community Center • San Marcos, Texas

- Responsible for personnel administration, public relations, writing and obtaining grants, coordinating different agencies in the delivery of social services and coordinating with the news media.

**Southwest Texas State University Intern** September 1974 – December 1976

Community Council of South Central Texas • New Braunfels, Texas

- Helped coordinate delivery of social services to citizens of thirteen counties surrounding Bexar County, San Antonio, Texas
- Wrote grant applications, obtained new funding for social services and coordinated with the news media extensively

**Special Project Coordinator:** Successfully coordinated a massive effort involving many different agencies in South Central Texas to obtain potable water for twenty-one (21) desperate families in Guadalupe County, Texas

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS/ASSOCIATIONS**

- State Bar of Texas (1980 to present)
- United States District Court (1983 to present)
- United States Appeals Court-Fifth Circuit (1983 to present)
- Chair- State Bar of Texas Grievance Committee (2014 to 2020)
- Houston Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association
- Hispanic Bar Association
- Mexican American Bar Association
- Texas District and County Attorney's Association

## AWARDS

- **James W. Wray, Jr. Founders Award 2024** - Hispanic Issues Section-State Bar of Texas
- **Joe Campos Torres Justice Award 2019** - Mexican American Bar Association
- **Director's Award 2004** Executive Office for United States Attorneys for the Department of Justice
- **Director's Award 2010** Executive Office for United States Attorneys for the Department of Justice
- **Director's Award 2013** Executive Office for United States Attorneys for the Department of Justice
- Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Letter of Recognition 2016
  - For the successful prosecution of three defendants concerning the hate crime assault of a victim for his race and sexual orientation
- Free the Captives Excellence Award 2016
  - Recognized for making a difference in lives of teen human trafficking victims
- Internal Revenue Service 2016
- Department of Justice - Office of Inspector General 2016
- Texas State Alumni Achievement Award 2012
- Superior Performance Award 2005 - U.S. Attorney
- Federal Bureau of Investigation Award from the FBI Director 2001
  - Prosecution of five defendants in connection with the cross burning at the home of an African-American family
- U.S. Attorney Appreciation Award 2000
  - Dedicated service in the Houston Area Crimes Working Group
- Special Commendation from the Drug Enforcement Agency 1999
  - Successful prosecution of a large scale drug trafficking organization
- Federal Bureau of Investigation Award from the FBI Director 1998
  - Successful prosecution of a thirty-one defendant indictment involving a large scale organization trafficking in cocaine
- Special Commendation from the United States Attorney 1997
  - Southern District of Texas for the prosecution of a large scale drug trafficking organization
- Special Commendation from the United States Attorney 1996
  - Southern District of Texas for the prosecution of several highly complex drug trafficking cases

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS (Instructor)

- Volunteer: Consejos Legales
- Volunteer: Citizen's Police Academy targeting Hispanic Community
- Frequent Instructor on Civil Rights/Hate Crimes/Narcotics/Human Trafficking, Immigrant and Criminal Justice matters
- Human Trafficking • Houston ISD Police
- Human Trafficking • Harris County Sheriff's Academy
- Human Trafficking • Houston Police Academy
- Human Trafficking • Harris County Constable's Office
- Trial Advocacy • Mexico City 2016
- Texas Narcotics Officers Convention Galveston, Texas Civil Rights 2012
- Human Trafficking • Paraguay 2009

- Human Trafficking • Chile 2008
- Human Trafficking • Teleconference- Guadalajara, Mexico 2008
- Human Trafficking • Republic of Kyrgyzstan 2007
- Human Trafficking • South Texas College-McAllen, Texas 2007
- Human Trafficking • Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico 2005
- Advanced Criminal Trial Program • Washington, D.C. 1997
  - Sponsored by the Department of Justice, Executive Office for United States Attorneys, The Attorney General's Advocacy Program.

## **CIVIC ENDEAVORS**

- Frequent Speaker on Immigrant Rights/Civil Rights/Hate Crimes/Narcotics/Human Trafficking and Criminal Justice matters
- Houston Bar Association's LGBTQ Community Legal Symposium-Montrose Center 2020
- Hate Incidents and Hate Crimes During Covid-19-Zoom-Ft. Bend County 2020
- Protecting Places of Worship- Houston Durgabari Society 2019
- Speaker - 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulf Coast Anti-Money Laundering Forum, Houston, Texas September 2016
- Keynote Speaker - Cease and Desist Convention, Houston, Texas March 2016
- Keynote Speaker - LULAC Council 682 Annual Awards Banquet, Seguin, Texas February 2015
- Panelist ABA Conference Hot Topics in Diversity Law Panel February 2015
- Speaker on Human Trafficking at the University of Houston, Bates College of Law March 2015
- Presenter on Human Trafficking, Montgomery County District Attorney's Office March 2015
- Presenter on Hate Crimes at Sam Houston State University April 2015
- Presenter on Human Trafficking, Mexican American Bar Association June 2015
- Presenter on Human Trafficking at the U.S. Pre-Trial Services June 2015
- November-Keynote Speaker-Turkish Raindrop House Annual Early Thanksgiving Diversity Celebration November 2015
- Guest Speaker - Houston Chinese Church December 2015
- Presenter at Civil Rights Symposium, Thurgood Marshall School of Law February 2014
- Presenter on Human Trafficking Sam Houston State University February 2014
- Presenter on Human Trafficking Department of Labor-Wage and Hour Division May 2014
- Keynote Speaker, I.C.E. Hispanic Agents Association, San Antonio, Texas August 2014
- Presenter on Human Trafficking Thurgood Marshall School of Law October 2014
- Keynote Speaker 2012
  - Dedication of Juan Seguin Elementary School as a State of Texas Historical Marker
- Keynote Speaker 2012
  - Juan Seguin Family Historical Society Celebration
- School Board Member • St. Anne Catholic School • Houston, Texas 2002
- Dowling Middle School Cinco de Mayo Celebration Speaker 1999
- Ambassador of Justice Award • South Texas Youth Ambassador Rally 1998
- Career Panelist for the Summer Bridge Program • Academic Summer Program for motivated at-risk students 1998
- Keynote Speaker • Seguin & Guadalupe County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet 1995

- School Board Member • Annunciation Orthodox School • Houston, Texas 1991
- Seguin Jaycees 1977

## **MEDIA**

- Frequent media appearances on criminal justice and immigrant rights matters
- Vanity Fair Confidential September 2016
  - Interviewed for episode regarding the successful prosecution of Geraldo Salazar aka “El Gallo” human trafficking organization
- Asylum Entertainment “Gangsters” September 2016
  - Interviewed for episode on the Hortencia Medeles Arguello human trafficking case
- CNN “The Hunt with John Walsh-Sex Slaves in Texas” August 2016
  - Appearance highlighting the successful prosecution of the Hortencia Medeles Arguello human trafficking organization and requesting the assistance of the public in the hunt for the capture of a remaining fugitive

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- “Challenges in Federal Sex Trafficking Prosecutions” [www.thehoustonlawyer.com](http://www.thehoustonlawyer.com)

## **PERSONAL BACKGROUND**

- Born: Seguin, Texas
- Marital Status: married to Marisela Perez for 47 years
  - My wife is a bilingual Registered Nurse with the Houston Independent School District
- Children: Matthew and Adriana, both practicing lawyers
- Languages: Fluent in Spanish
- Tejano Music Hall of Fame member