

**THE HONORABLE HIRAM E. PUIG-LUGO**  
**ASSOCIATE JUDGE**  
**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Judge Hiram E. Puig-Lugo was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 1999 by President William Jefferson Clinton.

Judge Puig-Lugo was born in San Germán, Puerto Rico and has lived in the District of Columbia since 1988. He received his Bachelor of Science in political science from the University of Wisconsin in 1984 and received his law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1988. He was the first Latino member of the University of Wisconsin Law Review, where he served as a note and comment editor. While in law school, he served as a student attorney with the Legal Defense Project and interned for the Honorable Susan Steingass of the Dane County Circuit Court.

Following law school, Judge Puig-Lugo served as a staff attorney at the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia, where he represented criminal defendants and juvenile respondents in the District of Columbia Courts. In the last two years of his eight-year tenure, Judge Puig-Lugo was the Deputy Chief of the Trial Division. In 1996, the District of Columbia Courts honored Judge Puig-Lugo with the Legal Community Award for service to the Latino community.

In 1996, Judge Puig-Lugo became a trial attorney with the Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice, where he investigated and prosecuted matters involving police brutality, hate crimes, and involuntary servitude. He received a Department of Justice Special Achievement Award in 1998 for his work in the Division.

Judge Puig-Lugo has significant teaching experience to complement his legal background. He has served as an instructor at the George Washington University Law School, the University of the District of Columbia School of Law, and the American University Washington College of Law. He has contributed to legal education projects in Spain, Colombia, México, Argentina, Venezuela, El Salvador, Ecuador, Peru, and the Federated States of Micronesia. In addition, Judge Puig-Lugo has participated in community education programs with Spanish-language television in D.C. and New York.

Judge Puig-Lugo is a member of the Access to Justice Commission, the Standing Committee on Fairness and Access to the Courts, and the Jury Committee. He is chair of the Subcommittee on Improving Court Access, and former chair of the Family Court Neglect and Abuse Subcommittee and the LGBT Task Force.