

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

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 has handled criminal felony, juvenile delinquency, criminal misdemeanor, child abuse and neglect, domestic relations, Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS), and domestic violence calendars. He is currently assigned to the Civil Division.

Judge Puig-Lugo was born in San Germán, Puerto Rico, and is equally fluent in English and Spanish. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, where he was the first Latino member of the Wisconsin Law Review. After graduation, he served as staff attorney with the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia for eight years and as trial attorney for the US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Criminal Section for three years.

Judge Puig-Lugo served as Presiding Judge of the Family Court from 2013 to 2016. There, he started the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Working Group to coordinate support for court-involved youth who have endured commercial sexual exploitation. Previously, he chaired the Court's Neglect Subcommittee, and convened a working group to address the needs of LGBT youth in the neglect and juvenile delinquency systems. Moreover, he served six years on the D.C. Access to Justice Commission, and sits on the Board of Directors for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Judge Puig-Lugo has been an instructor for legal education projects in México, Central America, South America, Puerto Rico, Spain, and the Federated States of Micronesia. He has presented on numerous topics which include rule of law, law of evidence, trial advocacy skills, human trafficking, judicial independence, child welfare, and alternative dispute resolution. He has taught at the American University Washington College of Law, the University of the District of Columbia School of Law, the George Washington University Law School, and the National Judicial College Pacific Islands Law Institute.

Judge Puig-Lugo is a US representative to the Hague Judicial Network. He has trained judges in the US and abroad on how to implement the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. He has taken part in separate bilateral talks between the US and México, Spain and Japan, to facilitate implementation of the Convention between the US and those nations.

Judge Puig-Lugo has participated in public education programs through Spanish language television in the District of Columbia and New York City. He has visited DC area Latino community organizations to provide education on how the court system works.

Judge Puig-Lugo was recognized by the DC Bar Family Law Section in 2015 for his leadership to the Court and service to District residents. He received the Judicial Leadership Award from the Hispanic National Bar Foundation in 2014, and the Honorable Ricardo M. Urbina Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia in 2011.