



R. Alex Acosta

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R. Alexander Acosta is the Dean of the College of Law at Florida International University. A native of Miami, Dean Acosta earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard College and his law degree from Harvard Law School. After serving as a law clerk to Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr., then a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Dean Acosta practiced law at the law firm of Kirkland and Ellis and taught at the George Mason School of Law.

Dean Acosta returned to public service as a Senate-confirmed Member of the National Labor Relations Board, an independent federal agency responsible for administering and interpreting the National Labor Relations Act, the principal federal statute that regulates private-sector labor relations. As a Board Member, he participated in or authored more than 125 opinions. Dean Acosta was again confirmed by the Senate to be the first Hispanic to serve as Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights, at the Department of Justice. While there, he reopened the investigation into the murder of Emmett Till.

Most recently, Dean Acosta became the longest serving U.S. Attorney in South Florida since the 1970s, sitting as the Senate-confirmed United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, which carries one of the busiest trial calendars in the nation. Under Dean Acosta, the Southern District prosecuted a wide variety of historic matters, including the prosecutions of Jack Abramoff for fraud, of Jose Padilla for terrorism, of Charles Taylor Jr. for torture, the first torture case of its kind in the U.S., and of Cali Cartel founders Miguel and Gilberto Rodriguez-Orejuela for importation of 200,000 kilos of cocaine, which resulted in a \$2.1 billion forfeiture. Dean Acosta also targeted white collar crime, overseeing several bank-related prosecutions including that of Swiss Bank UBS, which agreed to pay \$780 million and, for the first time in history, to provide the United States with the names of individuals that were using secret Swiss bank accounts to avoid payment of U.S. taxes. Dean Acosta additionally focused on creating an innovative approach to prosecuting health care fraud, including the first Health Care Fraud strike force in the nation. These efforts made South Florida the top district in the nation for health care fraud prosecution.

Dean Acosta serves on the Florida Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism, on the Florida Innocence Commission and the American Bar Association's Commission on Diversity in the Education Pipeline. He has received several professional recognitions, including the American Bar Association's Council on Legal Education's Legacy Award for efforts on diversity; the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund's Excellence in Government Award and the D.C. Hispanic Bar Association's Hugh A. Johnson Jr. Memorial Award. Dean Acosta has been twice selected as among the nation's most influential Hispanics by Hispanic Business Magazine, and in 2008, was selected as among the 100 most influential individuals in business ethics by Ethisphere Magazine. In addition to his leadership role at the College of Law, Dean Acosta has a special interest in framing the national policy debate on infrastructure investment in education.