



NEWS RELEASE

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Ambassador Julissa Reynoso Receives 2021 Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service

Reynoso was honored for her contributions to the Latino community and the country at the NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Celebration on Tuesday in Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) presented the 2021 Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service to Ambassador Julissa Reynoso at the organization’s annual NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Celebration in Washington, D.C., this past Tuesday, October 19, 2021.

NALEO President and California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara and NALEO Educational Fund Chair and Lake County Public Library Board Trustee Mara Candelaria Reardon presided over the event. Congressman Roybal’s daughter, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and his grandson — civic leader, attorney, and NALEO Educational Fund Board Member, Mr. Rick Olivarez — presented the award to Ambassador Reynoso. The First Lady of the United States, Dr. Jill Biden, was also in attendance during the ceremony alongside other special guests who provided remarks — U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) (last year’s award recipient); Congressman Adriano Espaillat (D-NY); and political strategist and co-host of *The View*, Mrs. Ana Navarro-Cárdenas.

The Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service is presented to individuals who have distinguished themselves as devoted public servants to the nation and the Latino community. In addition, the award pays tribute to the organization’s founder and President Emeritus, the late Congressman Edward R. Roybal. This year’s gathering took place at the Watergate Hotel in Washington, D.C., and was a smaller, more intimate celebration than previous years, given the precautions taken to keep guests safe amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

“NALEO is honored to acknowledge Ambassador Julissa Reynoso’s dedication to public service and her contributions to advancing the wellbeing, security, and equality of our community throughout her career,” stated NALEO President Ricardo Lara. “As a former Ambassador to Uruguay, Co-Chair of the Gender Policy Council at the White House, Assistant to the President,

and Chief of Staff to Dr. Jill Biden, Ambassador Reynoso exemplifies what members of our community can accomplish in this country.”

Born in the Dominican Republic, Ambassador Reynoso served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. Additionally, she served as faculty at Columbia University School of Law and the School of International and Public Affairs. Ambassador Reynoso is widely published in English and Spanish on an array of issues, including comparative law, regulatory reform, community organizing, immigration policy, and Latin American politics for both popular press and academic journals.

She is a former partner at the international law firms of Winston & Strawn LLP and Chadbourne & Parke LLP in New York and has clerked for United States District Court Judge Laura Taylor Swain.

Ambassador Reynoso has been nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as United States Ambassador to Spain and Andorra. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Government from Harvard University, a Master of Philosophy from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, and a Juris Doctor from Columbia University School of Law.

NALEO is pleased to recognize Ambassador Reynoso as this year’s recipient of the Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service.

For more information about the 2021 NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Celebration, please visit <https://naleo.org/roybal2021/> or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

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About NALEO

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the non-partisan leadership organization of the nation’s more than 6,800 Latino elected and appointed officials.