



Arlene Rivera Finkelstein

Arlene Rivera Finkelstein has been active in the PBA Minority Bar Committee since early in 2005. Her true passion has been working on the Minority Law Day event in Philadelphia for the past four years, finding that exposing high school students to the practice of law and modeling for them the possibility of success in the legal profession is tremendously fulfilling. She believes the minority school students don't get enough exposure to the opportunities available to them and to the success that is possible if they work hard and study. Just giving them a glimpse of it every year – and having the opportunity to work with all of the attorneys and judges who give so generously of their time to make this happen – has been a truly positive experience for Arlene and those who have been working with her on the Planning Subcommittee.

Arlene is assistant dean and executive director of the Toll Public Interest Center at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She directs the law school's wide array of public interest programming, which includes one of the first mandatory pro bono programs in the country requiring that all students perform at least 70 hours of law-related service before they graduate. In addition to ensuring that all students make service a meaningful part of their legal education, the center supervises almost 20 student groups that perform pro bono legal service in a variety of practice areas, advises students on how best to prepare themselves throughout law school for public interest careers, and oversees the school's public interest scholarship program. Before coming to Penn Law School, Arlene was the inaugural director of the Public Interest Resource Center at Widener Law School. She began working at Widener as a professor of legal research and writing, where she also taught interviewing and counseling and public interest law.

Arlene was the 2009 chair of the Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities Section of the Association of American Law Schools. She also serves on a number of legal services boards including Community Legal Services and Philadelphia Legal Assistance, Friends of Farmworkers and the Defender Association of Philadelphia. A past president of the Hispanic Bar Association of Pennsylvania, she remains a member of the Hispanic Bar Association and of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Bar Committee. She is also on the editorial board of *The Philadelphia Lawyer Magazine*.

Arlene received her J.D. from Temple University Beasley School of Law and her B.S. from Cornell University. She began her legal career as an assistant defender at the Defender Association of Philadelphia, where she focused primarily on the defense of juveniles.

Arlene lives in Villanova, Pa., with her husband and three young sons.