



THE HONORABLE ANTONIO O. GARZA '83,  
Former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico

# CALLEJO ROUNDTABLE

*Former U.S. Ambassador Tony Garza '83 Kickoff Speaker*

Presented by:



at&t

Adelfa Botello Callejo was only five years old when she decided she wanted to be a lawyer and a leader. The daughter of a migrant worker, Callejo attended SMU Dedman School of Law's night program while working during the day as a secretary.

In 1961, Callejo became the first Hispanic woman to graduate from SMU Law School and one of the first Latinas in the country to obtain a law degree. During her forty-five years as a lawyer in Dallas, she has consistently championed for the rights of Hispanics and the under-privileged. She and her husband, Bill Callejo, who is a 1966 SMU Dedman Law alum, are partners in the firm Callejo & Callejo.

Now, SMU Dedman Law School is honoring their extraordinary leadership in the Hispanic community and their

commitment to the legal profession with the creation of the Callejo Roundtable, which will be an ongoing lecture series with the mission of "training leaders for a changing world."

The inaugural Callejo Roundtable was held in March in Karcher Auditorium in Storey Hall. AT&T sponsored the event.

The featured speaker was Antonio "Tony" Garza, who served as the U.S. Ambassador to Mexico from 2002 to 2009 and is widely regarded as one of the premier experts on U.S. – Mexico relations. Garza is a 1983 graduate of SMU Dedman Law School.

"I'm very thankful for this wonderful recognition, and I am extremely proud of SMU Law School and the dean for bringing this new urgency to developing Hispanic leadership," Adelfa Callejo said at the Roundtable's first program.

"Teaming up with SMU Dedman Law School and AT&T is a proactive start to tackle some of these issues and turn them into opportunities."

Callejo pointed out that Hispanics are the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population. Latinos comprise thirty-eight percent of the Texas population and forty-eight percent of those who are eighteen years old and younger. Seventy-six percent of the pre-kindergarten students in the Dallas public school system are Hispanic. And experts predict that Latinos will be in the majority in Texas by 2040.

"The Callejo Roundtable will provide a forum where we can bring together leaders and citizens who are interested in discussing important issues that impact Latinos on the local, state, national, and international levels," said



MARCOS RONQUILLO '83, *Godwin Ronquillo*; CATHY COUGHLIN, *AT&T*; ADELFA CALLEJO '61, *Callejo & Callejo*; BILL CALLEJO '66, *Callejo & Callejo*; JOHN B. ATTANASIO, *Dean, SMU Dedman School of Law*



SMU Dedman School of Law Dean John Attanasio. "I cannot think of anyone better to start this conversation than Tony Garza."

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Dean Attanasio also announced the creation of the AT&T Callejo Leadership Scholarship and the Adelfa Botello Callejo Professorship. The AT&T Callejo Scholarship is a full-tuition, three-year scholarship awarded to a SMU Dedman law student on the basis of academic achievement, interest in Latino issues, and the potential to serve as a leader in the increasingly diverse business community. The Callejo Professorship is the result of a \$1 million gift from Adelfa and Bill Callejo and a \$750,000 match from the Dedman Family Foundation. It will support the teaching and research of a nationally renowned scholar in the field of Latino studies and leadership.

"AT&T is thrilled and proud to sponsor the Callejo Roundtable and the Callejo Scholarship," said AT&T Senior Vice President Cathy Coughlin. "It is more and more important that our government

leaders and business leaders work together with Hispanic leaders to address issues that impact us all. AT&T is very proud to put our brand with Adelfa Callejo."

During his speech at the Roundtable, former Ambassador Garza said he is frequently asked if Mexico is in crisis.

"No," he responded. "But Mexico is definitely facing challenges, with security being the most visible."

The problem, said Garza, is that Mexico is struggling to "build the institutions that can contain and manage the challenges of violence and corruption."

"We have violence and corruption in the United States, but we have the institutions to contain and control it," he said. "This is a challenge – not just of one political party – but of a generation in Mexico."

Garza, who was previously a partner at Bracewell & Guiliani, said that Mexicans have a respect for America. But he said that there is resentment by many in Mexico of the wealth and power of the U.S., and he pointed to various U.S. policies that marginalize Hispanics.

"I think the United States is finally starting to understand the impact that Mexico has on us, but we don't know how to manage a public policy to

address the important issues," he said.

The Ambassador said there are two primary questions:

"How does Mexico develop a policy that opens up a more competitive environment allowing for the flow of capital – be it financial or energy or technology – south, and how do we in the U.S. develop a policy regarding capital – human capital – north," he said. "That is the framework that captures most of the issues and challenges."