

# **IAOHRA AWARDS**

**Presented at the  
2017 IAOHRA Annual Conference  
Seattle, Washington  
Sept. 24 - 28**

# **IAOHRA AWARDS RECIPIENT**

## **Individual Achievement Award**



**Commissioner - Guadalupe Gamboa of Seattle**

**Guadalupe Gamboa was appointed to the Commission by Governor Jay Inslee in April 2015.**

Mr. Gamboa is the son of migrant farmworkers. He grew up working as a child in the sugar beet fields of the Yakima Valley, following the crops to Oregon and California, and living in labor camps. This early experience of the harsh conditions faced by farmworkers created a life long desire to fight for social justice.

As a teenager, he joined the farmworkers movement led by Cesar Chavez, which led him to the Grape Boycott in the East Coast then Toronto and to organizing farmworkers in the Yakima Valley and California.

Lupe was also the first Latino student from a farmworker background admitted to the UW Law School, becoming one of the first group of Latino lawyers in this state. As a lawyer he became the Director of the Farmworker Division of Evergreen Legal Services, where he litigated precedent setting cases establishing important civil rights such as the right of farmworkers to organize and to receive visitors in their labor camp housing. He also played a strategic role in a coalition of advocates that was successful in extending coverage to farmworkers under many of this state's labor laws.

Lupe is currently working as a Lecturer at the UW's American Ethnic Studies Department where he is teaching the history of the farmworker labor and civil rights movement to the next generation of leaders.

# IAOHRA AWARDS RECIPIENT

## Bill Hale Award



**Sharon Ortiz is the Executive Director of the Washington State Human Rights Commission (WSHRC),** which enforces Washington’s laws against discrimination. Ms. Ortiz has almost two decades of experience in civil rights investigations. She began her career as assistant director at Northwest Fair Housing Alliance, which conducts testing and investigates housing discrimination cases. Ms. Ortiz started as an investigator at the WSHRC over 16 years ago in the Yakima field office, later worked as a Manager in the Spokane office, and has been the Agency’s Director since 2009.

In her tenure as Director, Ms. Ortiz has led the agency through the aftermath of the economic crisis of 2008, which resulted in severe budget cuts, by finding innovative ways to achieve the mission of the WSHRC by creating effective partnerships, streamlining investigations, and focusing on efficient, but effective, use of resources. She has served on the board of the Washington Alliance of Immigrant and Refugee Justice, Task Force on Race Relations, Governor’s Committee on Disability, the Native American Political Alliance, Co-chair of the Spokane Falls Northwest Indian Powwow and is a member of the United Farmworker Union.

# **IAOHRA AWARDS RECIPIENT**

## **Arthur L. Green Civil and Human Rights Awards Award**



Jim serves as the Executive Director of the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights. Mr. Stowe is a native of Belmont, North Carolina. Jim and his family relocated to Montgomery County Maryland to serve as the 4th Director of the Office of Human Rights. The agency, established in 1960, provides leadership to the people of Montgomery County and works toward eliminating racism/discrimination; identifying and resolving community tensions; and educating the citizens about cultural diversity. These efforts culminate in our goal of Creating a Culture of Service and a Climate of Fairness and Inclusion.

The office has a rich legacy of human right advocacy and professional competency and continues today as one of the premiere civil and human rights agencies in the nation. Under Jim's leadership the Office has sets it sights on even greater engagement in the community and heightening professional standards for all involved with the office.

Jim has been instrumental in developing new program initiatives and re-positioning the office for success in the 21st Century. These programs include increased emphasis in enforcement productivity and competency which led to the agency becoming fully certified with the EEOC Fair Employment Practices Agency Program, renewed emphasis in fair housing which led to fair housing continuing educational credit program for realtors, apartment managers and other housing providers as well as increased enforcements efforts through the Interagency Fair Housing Coordination Group to insure that all barriers to fair accessible housing for everyone are removed; new initiatives to combat the incident of hate violence activities through the Committee on Hate Violence and the convening of a county wide symposium on "Bullying in Schools" and a forum on Post 911 Issues and Concerns within the Muslim and Sikh Community; the Community Friendship Picnic and an increased effort in outreach activities with the Montgomery County Human Rights Commission to convene public forums on Racial Profiling, the Criminal Justice System and The Digital Divide, a response to the Trayvon Martin shooting; and an increase in programming for youth with an expansion of the Human Rights Youth Camp for 5th Graders, Human Rights Day Observance for all school levels and the Civil Rights Educational Freedom Tour which is for the entire community. Mr. Stowe is a member of a number of community organizations and works with these programs and activities throughout Montgomery County. The agency continues to evolve and remains committed to the long held principles of fairness and equal justice under the law.

# **IAOHRA AWARD CATEGORIES**

## **ARTHUR L. GREEN CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD**

Presented to an IAOHRA member for their lifelong advocacy of civil and human rights and for the advancement of racial/social justice.

## **BILL HALE AWARD**

Presented to an organization or individual who promoted civil and human rights in their official capacity and has provided leadership in the development of programs to safeguard the human and civil rights of all people in their corporation and beyond.

## **INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Presented to an IOAHRA member for their continuing commitment to equal opportunity and civil rights demonstrated through efforts to create and implement high caliber programs for civil rights enforcement professionals and their communities.

## **INTERNATIONAL AWARD**

Presented to an individual or an organization for outstanding work in civil and human rights internationally.

## **PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

This award shall be selected by the current IAOHRA President and presented to an individual for outstanding service in advancing the civil and human rights agenda.