

Camelia M. Valdes

BREAKING BARRIERS. UPHOLDING JUSTICE.



BACKGROUND

Born in the Bronx to Dominican parents and raised in Newark, New Jersey, Camelia M. Valdes built a foundation rooted in public service, perseverance, and education. A graduate of Barringer High School, she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from Seton Hall University, a Juris Doctor from Rutgers Law School–Newark, and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Trial Advocacy from Temple University Law School. As the mother of two daughters with autism, she is also a passionate advocate for autism awareness and the special needs community.

CAREER

Valdes has dedicated her career to public service, serving as a Municipal Prosecutor, Deputy Attorney General, Assistant Governor's Counsel, and Assistant United States Attorney before being appointed Passaic County Prosecutor in 2009. Her historic appointment made her the first Latina county prosecutor in New Jersey, the first woman to lead the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, and the first prosecutor of Dominican ancestry to head a county prosecutor's office in the United States. Today, she remains New Jersey's most senior county prosecutor.

IMPACT

Camelia M. Valdes has broken barriers for women and Latinas in law enforcement while strengthening public safety through decades of dedicated leadership. Her historic appointments have expanded representation in the justice system, and her advocacy for autism awareness reflects her commitment to serving both her community and her family. Her career stands as an example of excellence, resilience, and trailblazing leadership in public service.

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