

R. ALEXANDER ACOSTA

Dean of the College of Law, Florida International University

R. Alexander Acosta is a member of the Board of Directors of U.S. Century Bank. He became the second dean of the College of Law at Florida International University in 2009. A native of Miami and first-generation lawyer, Dean Acosta earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard College and his law degree from Harvard Law School. After serving as law clerk to Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr., then a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Dean Acosta practiced law at the firm of Kirkland & Ellis. Before attending Law School, Dean Acosta worked as an investment banker at Lehman Brothers in New York.

Dean Acosta has served in three presidentially-appointed, senate-confirmed positions. He was a member of the National Labor Relations Board, where he participated in or authored more than 125 opinions. He went on to be the first Hispanic to hold the rank of Assistant Attorney General. Most recently, Dean Acosta served as the U.S. Attorney for Southern District of Florida, and was the longest serving U.S. Attorney in the District since the 1970s. While Dean Acosta served as U.S. Attorney, the Southern District prosecuted a number of high-profile defendants.

Dean Acosta has twice been named one of the nation's 50 most influential Hispanics by Hispanic Business Magazine. He was named to the list of 100 most influential individuals in business ethics in 2008. He serves on the Florida Innocence Commission, on the Florida Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism, on the American Bar Association's Commission for Hispanic Rights and Responsibilities, and on the American Bar Association's Council for Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Education Pipeline. In 2013, the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce presented Dean Acosta with the Chairman's Higher Education Award in recognition of his "outstanding achievements, leadership and determination throughout a lifetime of caring and giving back to the community.