



Alejandra Y. Castillo
National Deputy Director

Ms. Alejandra Castillo was appointed in 2010 to serve as National Deputy Director of the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). In this role, Ms. Castillo serves as the principal advisor to the MBDA National Director and manages the day-to-day activities of the Agency's 5 Regional Offices and 48 Minority Business Centers. This operation expands the U.S. economy and creates new jobs by providing services to promote the growth and global competitiveness of minority businesses. Under the Obama Administration, MBDA has assisted minority-owned firms in obtaining nearly \$4 billion in contracts and capital, creating nearly 6,000 new jobs in FY 2010. As National Deputy Director, Ms. Castillo is also responsible for executing the Agency's mission to help Minority Business Enterprises grow and succeed through access to capital, access to contract and access to business opportunities both domestically and abroad. She has forged important strategic stakeholder relations and key public-private partnerships

Prior to her appointment with MBDA, Ms. Castillo served as Special Advisor to the Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA) where she was responsible for business outreach and development of policy initiatives geared at trade promotion and enforcement of U.S. trade laws. Ms. Castillo's experience will also be valuable to MBDA as she will play an integral role in developing and implementing MBDA's Global Export Initiative for the minority business community as part of President Obama's National Export Initiative.

A practicing attorney for several years, Ms. Castillo has worked in the private, government and non-profit sector. Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Ms. Castillo served as the Executive Director of the Hispanic National Bar Association headquartered in Washington D.C. During her tenure at HNBA, she was instrumental in working with the White House, as well as other non-profit organization, such as the Latinos for a Fair Judiciary, in support of the nomination and confirmation process to the Supreme Court of Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

Ms. Castillo served in the Clinton Administration as a Senior Policy Analyst to the Deputy Director at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), and was responsible for developing and analyzing White House initiatives on anti-drug traffic and interdiction, anti money laundering policies, as well as drug prevention and treatment programs.

A native of New York, Ms. Castillo holds a Bachelor Degree of Arts from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in economics and political science. Ms. Castillo holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin and has a Juris Doctorate degree from American University -Washington College of Law.

Ms. Castillo is active in a number of civic and professional organizations, including: The Hispanic National Bar Association, and the Hispanic Bar Association of DC, the American Bar Association, and serves a Board Member of the Dominican American Society of Queens, NY among others. In 2010, Hispanic Business Magazine recognized Ms. Castillo among the Top 100 Influential Latino in the US; and received the 2010 Rising Star Award by the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia.