

Chicanos in the Criminal Justice System

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Abstract

Historically there has been a contentious relationship between the justice system and Chicanos. This poster will show into how interactions between the criminal justice system and the Chicano community have increased as well as examine the support levels or lack thereof within the justice system. I will use survey statistics found in reports from the PEW Research Center and also focus on Chicanos who interact with the justice system on a daily basis. According to a Pew Research Center report, approximately fifty-six percent of Chicanos have had some sort of interaction with the criminal justice system. The appointment or elections of Chicano/Latino judges at the Federal level and their contributions to the legal profession and their community will be among the main focus of this study.



Reynaldo Guerra Garza-- In 1977 President Carter appointed Garza as a Federal Judge. He was the first Chicano Appointed to the Federal District Court.



Manuel L. Real--First Hispanic Judge on the Judicial Conference. In 1970, Judge Real ordered the desegregation of the Pasadena school system. In 1966 Manuel Real was appointed to be a federal judge for the Central District of California.



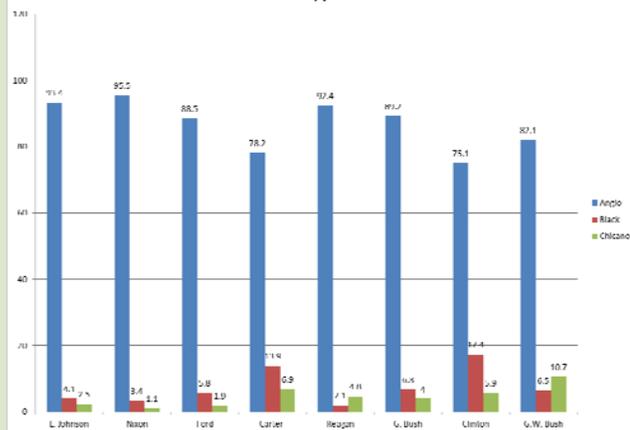
Ruben Castillo--In 1988, Judge Castillo became Director for the Chicago Office of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. Judge Ruben was instrumental in the creation of Chicago's first Chicano congressional district. Judge Castillo was nominated in 1994 by President Clinton becoming the first Chicano federal judge of Illinois.

Chicano interactions with the Criminal Justice System

Pew Report Statistics

Overall, 56% of Chicanos say they have interacted with the criminal justice system. Six-in-ten (61%) Chicanos say they have a great amount of confidence that the police will enforce the law.

District Judicial Appointment Percent

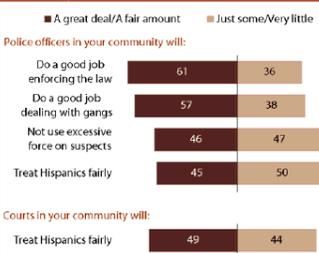


As evidenced by the graph to the left, there exist an extreme disparity between the amount of Chicanos and Anglos who are appointed to become district judges. Right now there is only about 12 appellate court judges that are Chicano.

A judge is a life long appointment, so Chicano judges can have a large impact on their communities. However, these impacts are limited greatly by the lack of a larger percentage of Chicano judges.

Figure 3
Confidence in the Legal System Among Hispanics

Question: How confident are you that...? (%)

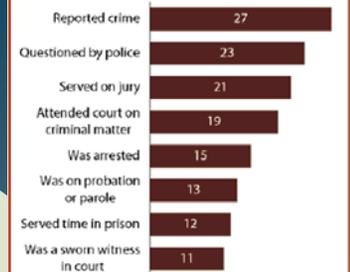


Note: Responses of "Don't know" and "Refused" not shown
Source: Pew Hispanic Center 2008 National Survey of Latinos

Figure 8

Interaction with the Criminal Justice System Among Hispanics

(% saying they or an immediate family member interacted with the system in the five years preceding the survey)



Source: Pew Hispanic Center 2008 National Survey of Latinos