

IDEAS LLYC

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REPORT

**POTENTIAL WOMEN
LEADERS IN
LATIN AMERICA,
PORTUGAL, SPAIN
AND THE UNITED
STATES**

Madrid, May 14, 2019

INTRODUCTION

Those who first predicted the 21st century would be the century of women back in the mid-70s' guessed correctly. It is increasingly common to see women holding positions of power, breaking stereotypes and leading with confidence. However, even remarkable futurologist Alvin Toffler or feminist Betty Friedan, among others, didn't imagine the change would take place in such a short period of time, or in such an astounding way.

Until just a century ago, the majority of women on the planet lacked the rights to vote, make decisions about their own bodies or file for divorce. In the United States, the first class of women physicians graduated in 1841. In most Latin American countries, however—the five exceptions being Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba and Mexico—women had to wait until the 20th Century before they could access university education.

The fight for gender equality is still going strong. There is a long way to go, but significant progress has been made. The infamous “glass ceiling,” the invisible barrier holding women back, is cracking. The day when this ceases to be news will come when we can truly say there is equality between the genders in leadership positions.

We can confidently say that, in a general sense, this is no longer an issue discussed only by groups of intellectual, avant-garde or politicized women. And this fight not only involves the women of the world: it has now added men, multilateral organizations, governments, public policies, public and private institutions, educational systems and mass media.

Countless debates have taken place on the topic of women and leadership. One of the most significant issues requests and requires a commitment from organizations regarding the presence of women in leadership positions, salary gaps in men's favor, mindsets that limit women's access to certain fields and assumptions corporate cultures make about men's and women's roles in households (and especially childrearing). These specific forms of inequality will have to be corrected sooner rather than later.

We do not see the same forms of inequality everywhere, with specific issues concerning society varying by country or region. The *Progress of Women in Latin America and the Caribbean 2017*

report, published by UN Women, points out specific problems in the region: gender-based and domestic violence, the fact that women are on average poorer than men, limited access to employment for women and the fact that around 18 million women work as domestic servants without legal or labor protections. But the report also outlines six important courses of action, based on one central premise: **it is imperative to create an economy in which women's rights can be realized.**

The transformation of social, political, cultural and economic realities that affect women is intrinsically related to two factors. The first is the empowerment and normalization of aspirations for equality, as stated by historian Mary Beard, winner of the 2016 Princess of Asturias Award for Social Sciences for her recent book “*Women & Power.*” The second is the increased presence, scope and visibility of a multigenerational, political and social female leadership. If those two elements come to be, the race toward gender equality will be greatly hastened.

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Despite some difficulties, progress is being made in Latin America, such as through [important legal changes](#) carried out in the last decade. The social silence has started to break and the fight for equality has started to permeate poorer and less educated demographics. And, essentially, the continent now contains third- and fourth-generation leaders—incumbent or emerging—who are actively working to improve the current situation with regard to many different spaces and perspectives.

The women included in this report have been chosen by our Public Affairs teams in Latin America, Portugal, Spain and the United States, based on criteria such as their public image and potential influence in the near future. This list certainly does

not include all the women who fulfill these criteria, but we do believe every woman here meets them.

Almost a year ago, we published a **report** identifying the emerging leadership in Latin America, Portugal and Spain—those women who, from the background, were moving toward leadership positions. Here, we present an extract of our 2019 leadership report, incorporating the United States and focusing on selected women positioned at the forefronts of their fields.

The women in this report stand out for the transformative effect they have had on the societies in which they work. Even so, they are only a small sample of a rising tide of global female talent and leadership, a result of the great—and growing—effort taking place worldwide, day by day.

Luisa Garcia

Partner and Regional Managing Director for Spain and Portugal for LLYC

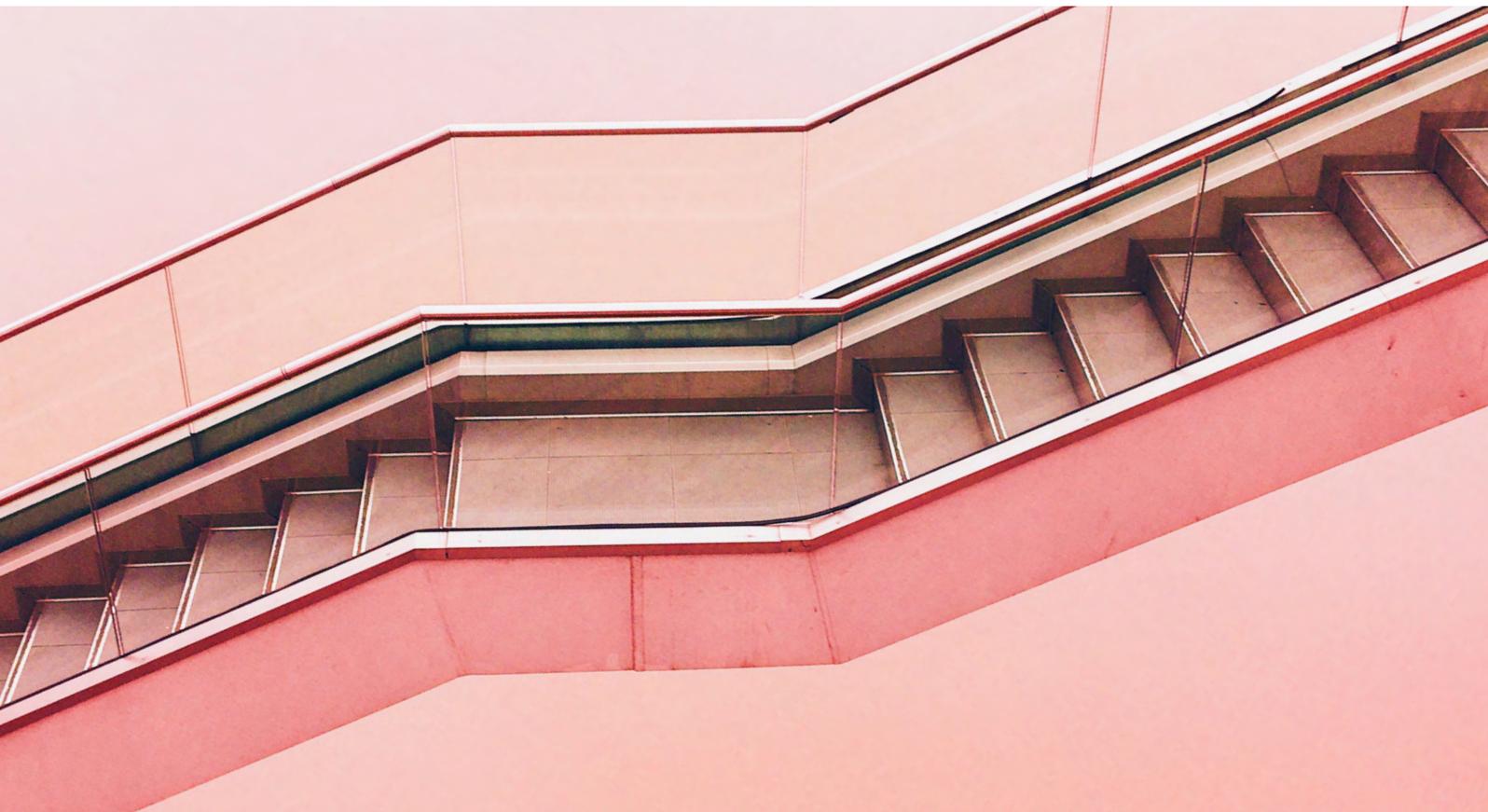
Joan Navarro

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ARGENTINA

The “*Emergentes Líderes en España, Portugal y América Latina. Una mirada al futuro* (Emerging Leaders in Latin America, Portugal and Spain. A Look into the Future)” report, published by IDEAS LLYC in June 2018, named **Carolina Stanley**, the current minister of Health and Social Development in Argentina, as a prominent leader in her country. A lawyer by trade, her involvement in politics came about during her time at university. She is catholic, and her concerns about poverty are clear in her many public appearances. Her statement that “poverty must always be watched, understood and treated, not just in times of emergency,” summarizes the central points of her advocacy.

The next woman has a website which clearly shares the wealth of causes to which she devotes her time and energy. **Anabel Fernandez Sagasti**, national senator for the Mendoza Province, is also a lawyer and a public auctioneer. Her actions have a clear social agenda, and she has promoted legislation related to healthy food promotion, senior abuse prevention and prohibitions against allowing perpetrators of gender-based violence to hold public office, as well as others regarding economic issues, including Tourism Emergency



Systems and worker protections in the viticulture industry. In a video circulated on social media by Fernandez Sagasti, she shares her concern about the high abstention rate (60 percent) among young voters in the Mendoza Province.

“These groups promote sustainable initiatives for making decisions with gender considerations in mind, promoting female entrepreneurship and leadership and many other related initiatives”

Thanks to a push by **Soledad Acuña**, minister of Education and Innovation in the city government of Buenos Aires, two programs with a major symbolic and social impact were successfully implemented: *Familias a la Escuela* (Families to School), which encourages parents who dropped out of school to return and finish their studies, and *Terminá la Secundaria* (Finish High School), focused on allowing every Argentine citizen to finish high school through an online program. At present, Acuña has taken on the huge responsibility of managing labor relations with education professionals' unions. She does not mince words when discussing the condition of education in her country, stating there is no choice but to change and adapt to modern day needs.

A small family company created by **Andrea Grobocopatel's** father in 1984 became Los Grobo Agropecuaria S.A., one of the most important food production and export groups in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. Now, she is the vice president of the company and president of Fundación Flor, an entity devoted to promoting social and academic development, especially in cities throughout the greater Carlos Cesares region

of 22,000 inhabitants. These groups promote sustainable initiatives for making decisions with gender considerations in mind, promoting female entrepreneurship and leadership and many other related initiatives. Grobocopatel is the author of a book, *“Pasión por hacer. Historia de vida, familia y empresa* (Passion for Doing. A Story of Life, Family and Company)” (2014). The family-based narrative supports her thesis that it is always possible to take up different trades and achieve great things over time. Private and public need not be in opposition, but can in fact be complementary.

An experienced official in the management of social programs and the Minister of Human Development and Habitat in the city government of Buenos Aires, **Guadalupe Tagliaferri** is known for raising the flag in the fight against child corporal punishment. Her jurisdiction, which includes Buenos Aires and its surrounding area and contains nearly 13 million people, faces some of today's most urgent challenges, including the need to address social emergencies, equal opportunities and inclusion. During an intense debate in Argentina regarding abortion, Tagliaferri stated that, though she herself would not get an abortion, she was in favor of decriminalizing the practice.

The Center of Public Policy Implementation for Equity and Growth (CIPECC, for its Spanish acronym) is an independent, nonpartisan and nonprofit organization whose purpose is to actively improve public policies in Argentina. **Julia Pomaes**, the organization's executive director, has a Ph.D. in Political Science and is a remarkable lecturer. Her main concern is ensuring public policies incorporate technical data and analyses.

BRAZIL

One of the main female leaders in Brazil, businesswoman **Luiza Helena Trajano**, has had a successful career leading mobile electronics retailer Magazine Luiza, where she began working at the age of 18. Today, she is the company's Administrative Council president. She was offered a position as a minister, but she declined on the grounds that she need not hold a public position to enable her female empowerment activism. Luiza also leads *Grupo Mulheres do Brasil*, which she created in 2013 to help guarantee equal opportunities for all genders and races. On Instagram, where she has over 90,000 followers, she gives advice on entrepreneurship and provides support to aspiring

leaders. In addition, she is one of the founders of *Instituto para el Desenvolvimento do Varejo* (IDV) and is involved with 13 different organizations.

Representative **Tabata Amaral**'s profile may seem unusual at first. Born in 1993, she holds degrees in Political Science and Astrophysics from Harvard University. She returned to Brazil to get involved with politics. Over the course of her life, she has gathered double-digit academic recognitions. In 2013, she gave a TED talk titled "Education: The Only Way Forward for Brazil." She is the co-founder of *Movimiento Mapa Educación* (Map Education Movement) and a member of the Democratic Labor Party (PDT, for its Portuguese acronym). In 2018, she became a representative for the state of Sao Paulo. She has participated in many meetings and debates in several different countries.

CHILE

Former presidential candidate **Evelyn Matthei** has been a representative and senator twice, was the minister of Labor and Social Security between 2011 and 2013 and has been the mayor of Providencia, a city with 150,000 inhabitants, since 2016. Providencia has been listed as having one of the best standards of living among Chilean communities. Experienced in the political arena, Matthei is a spokeswoman who participates in debates relating not only to her own community, but also to the country at large. Political analysts have named her a promising candidate for the 2021 presidential elections.

When **Carolina Goic** spoke during the funeral of former President Patricio Alwyn in April 2016, her words resonated with many Chileans. "It's time for Chilean politicians to face the consequences of inaction, abuse of power, unethical conduct and betrayal of their constituency's trust," she said. A social worker with a master's in Economics from the University of Chile, she was a representative for two terms. At present, and for the second time, she is a senator for the Magallanes region, which includes Chilean Antarctica. She also ran for president in 2017. She is a Member of the Christian Democratic Party and is currently

promoting an initiative to increase the number of organ donors in Chile.

Camila Vallejo came into the public scene during the 2011 student demonstrations. A geographer and member of the Chilean Communist Youth, Vallejo was the president of the Student Federation at the University of Chile between 2010 and 2011. In 2013, she was elected as a representative, becoming the youngest parliamentary woman in the current legislature. She is a member of three permanent committees in the Chile National Congress: Environment and Natural Resources, Science and Technology and Education.

“In her various appearances, she has spoken out about improvement and leveraging of women’s ability to access positions of power”

From 2012 to 2014, during President Sebastian Pinera's first term, **Cecilia Perez** served as minister general secretary of the Chilean government. When Pinera was reelected, Perez was reappointed to the same position. Today, she is the Chilean government's primary spokeswoman. In her various appearances, she has spoken out about improvement and leveraging of women's ability to access positions of power. In an interview with *La Tercera* newspaper, she said, "We have a long road ahead, but I am optimistic. It is time to level the field. I am happy to join the government as minister general secretary, as a woman, as a mother and as a partner, to bring the cultural change the time requires to the position. The voices of Chilean women are here to stay."

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COLOMBIA

August 2018, President Ivan Duque appointed **Maria Fernanda Suarez** Colombia's minister of Mining and Energy. Suarez is responsible for beginning the country's transition to renewable energy from sources such as wind, solar and biomass. This means integrating climate change considerations into planning Colombia's electrical sector. She graduated as an administrator from the College of Advanced Administration Studies (CESA, for its Spanish acronym) and studied Public Policy at Georgetown University. In addition to her private-sector activity, she worked with the Ministry of the Treasury and Ecopetrol, where she was vice president of Strategy and Finance.

Last year, **Francia Elena Marquez** received the Goldman Environmental Award, and before that, the 2015 Colombia Human Rights Defense Award for her leadership in the movement to increase female land ownership. She was invited to negotiations between president Santos and the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC, for its Spanish acronym) as part of a team of experts. In both national and international forums, she has reported human rights violations against African demographics, indigenous peoples and poor women. Having lived in the northern Cauca region in 2014, she has personally experienced the effects of displacement and endangerment as a result of the Colombian armed conflict.

“Maiguashca speaks of overcoming not only the prejudices of others, but identifying our own”

The subject of **Ana Fernanda Maiguashca's** TED talk was the fact that, even in the 21st century, there is still a widespread devaluation of female opinions in discussions dominated by men. She is the second woman, after Maria Mercedes Cuellar, to be on the Banco de la República board of directors. Maiguashca speaks of overcoming not only the prejudices of others, but identifying our own. She was homeschooled, with an emphasis on literature and theater. She studied Economics, much like her economist parents, at the University of Los Andes. She also holds an MBA in finance from Columbia

Business School. From 2003 to 2005, she worked for Banco de la República, then became co-director in 2013, a position she still holds today.

Paula Marcela Moreno holds the firm conviction that if there is mutual understanding and dialog in society, true peace is possible. This requires a level of humanization Moreno believes is still missing from society. She adds that understanding others is an ethical matter. While she was the minister of Culture (2007-2010), she focused her efforts on promoting this ideology on an institutional level. Among other things, she called upon society's elite to take part in cultural dialogue. She asserts the country's culture has the potential for the neutrality and empathy mutual understanding requires. An engineer by trade, she is currently chair of the Corporación Manos Visibles (Visible Hands Corporation)—an allusion to Adam Smith—which organizes effective inclusion programs for people at risk. Moreno is a columnist for newspaper *El Tiempo*, is on the board of directors at *Fundación Ford* and ASWAD and is a member of the Global African Diaspora Study Association.

Angela Garzon is the daughter of Angelino Garzon, an experienced politician and current Colombian ambassador to Costa Rica who served as a union leader, governor, minister and vice president of the Republic. Garzon herself has a background in analytical and political philosophy. She has a clear social agenda and has worked in the interest of human rights, social action, educational television and other related fields. She was elected to the Bogota council as the Centro Democrático (Democratic Center) candidate for the 2016-2019 electoral period. She has also publicized her intent to run for mayor. The core of her campaign is education, on the premise that strengthening education makes way for improvements in security, mobility, competitiveness, coexistence and culture.

When **Catalina Ortiz Lalinde** announced her candidacy to the Chamber of Representatives for the 2018-2022 electoral period, she made her core platform clear: encouraging activism, women's rights and transparency in the administration. A lawyer by trade, she holds a master's in public policy from Harvard University and chairs *INNpuls Colombia*, an entity she created in 2012 to promote business mobilization, innovation and development. Ortiz is proud of her achievements, and she receives support from over 60,000 entrepreneurs. She states her concerns loud and clear, calling for consumer rights, environmental protections and agricultural development, to name a few.



COSTA RICA

Christiana Figueres' phrase "time will not wait for us" has resonated with audiences in multiple countries. May 2010, she was appointed executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. She is considered the key actor in the adoption of a historical agreement signed by 195 countries during the Climate Change Conference in Paris in December 2015. Her father is Jose Figueres Ferrer, three-term president of Costa Rica. Figueres is among the top female voices on the subject of climate change and specifically its effects on poorer countries. An anthropologist and economist by trade, she has held top positions in private companies, academic institutions, the Costa Rican government and multilateral entities. She has stated that human suffering will multiply if radical changes are not made in the near future. Recently, she received the 2019 Dan David and 2019 Pax Natura awards for her climate change work.

May 2018, **Maria del Rocio Aguilar Montoya** was appointed the minister of Treasury. Aguilar is a lawyer, administrator and financial expert with professional experience in both public and private positions in the financial world. From 2005 to 2012, she was the comptroller general of the republic. Aguilar has a clear and direct agenda: fiscal consolidation, including a broad set of laws and measures to reduce national debt, stabilize currency and consolidate public finance. Aguilar

maintains a high popularity rating despite her field's technical complexity and the contentious nature of tax legislation.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In 2009, **Yeni Berenice Reynoso** became the first woman, as well as the youngest person ever, to be appointed a Santiago Province public prosecutor. In 2012, she took on the same position in the National District. Similar to those in other Latin American nations, this young lawyer is at the forefront of efforts to reform her country's judicial system. She started her career in the public ministry in 1998, three years before graduating law school. Her participation in highly publicized cases, especially her performance in a fraud case against the Customs Authority, is what first put her in the national eye. July 2018, Reynoso announced she would not try to continue in her position. September that same year, she was promoted to the position of public prosecutor in the Court of Appeals, the Public Ministry's highest court. At present, she participates in the selection process for new Supreme Court justices.

Originally an administrative and market professional, **Robiamny Balcácer** has expanded her professional experience into fields such as high-level public management, modern administration, international trade and tax management. After working as a regional tax official and participating in several social

initiatives, Balcarcel is now the current minister of Youth. August 2018, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) organized the Third Regional Population and Development Conference. Balcarcel outlined the programs stimulating sociopolitical education among her country's young people. Her thesis is that social problems, such as teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, will have no solution without a youth population educated in sociopolitical affairs.

ECUADOR

Dallyana Passailaigue is a member of the Ecuadorian National Assembly. Her family has a legacy of involvement in public affairs, including her father's work as minister of Education. She was the first Ecuadorian to participate in the Ironman competition, a triathlon held in Australia, where she finished at the head of the pack among Latin American women competitors, and has also competed in high-speed motorcycling. In addition to several positions as a movie and TV actor, she has experience as a sports newscaster. In the legislative area, she has spearheaded regulations regarding the use of disposable plastic as well as adolescent pregnancy and reporting for gender-based child abuse.

Before being appointed Ecuador's Minister of the Interior, **Maria Paula Romo** was one of 130 assembly members who drafted the Ecuadorian Constitution, passed in 2008. Trained at Universidad San Francisco de Quito, she is a lawyer with a master's in Government and Public Administration. In addition to working as a professor at that same university, she also completed her postgraduate studies in Constitutional Law at Salamanca University. From 2013 to 2017, during a lull in her political activities, she serves as dean of the Schools of Jurisprudence, Social Sciences and Communication at the International University of Ecuador. Romo is one of the most consistent voices against femicide and gender-based violence. She has stated that "responding to violence against women is not a political cause, but a societal one."

In a powerful TED talk in July 2016 titled *From Disaster to Resilience*, **Karla Morales** described how, as a 3-year-old girl, her great-grandfather tried to sexually abuse her. This story led to her addressing how to face one's fears. She is a lawyer who graduated from the Catholic University of

Santiago de Guayaquil, as well as a human rights specialist and consultant. She has worked as part of the Interamerican Human Rights Commission and United Nations and was the Latin American liaison for French NGO *Asuntos del Sur*. In her role as executive director of KAHRE, she has made extraordinary contributions to housing, education, health and community development efforts for Ecuadorian earthquake victims. After the April 16, 2016, earthquake, one tweet from her was enough to gather 23 trucks of supplies to support the families who had lost everything.

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Over the years, **Lourdes Cuesta** has accumulated a great deal of academic and professional experience. She is a lawyer and has worked in the private, public and academic sectors. She has been a professor on subjects such as Tributary, Societal and Commercial Law and was the director of the Cuenca Chamber of Commerce. She has taken dozens of specialization courses in various legal fields, and in 1994, she received two certificates, including one in Washington for her participation in the First Model of OAS General Assembly. She is part of the National Assembly as a CREO Movement representative. Her public appearances and National Assembly participation are characterized by her constant adherence to the facts and fundamentals of Rule of Law.

MEXICO

Alicia Barcena is executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and is among the most influential women on the continent. She has run multiple campaigns on topics such as biotic

resources, the environment, land rights, fishing and human settlement. During the terms of Kofi Annan and Ban Ki-moon, she had many different responsibilities, and afterwards, in 2008, she was appointed to ECLAC. During the OECD Latin American Forum, held May 2018, she defended drug legalization as a response to social and economic problems in the region in the interest of protecting 165 million young people. Barcena insists the two main problems Latin America faces today are inequality and low productivity. She also emphasizes the need to end the current culture of privilege. Oslo University in Norway awarded her an honorary doctoral degree.

“As a result of a campaign she spearheaded, 45 million children began engaging in healthier eating habits and 11 million increased their physical activity”

Luisa Maria Alcalde grew up in a family where political work was a fixture. Her father, Arturo Alcalde, was a renowned labor lawyer, and her mother, Berta Lujan, was a comptroller for Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador when he was the head of Mexico City's government. She studied law at National Autonomous University of Mexico and received a master's in Public Policy and Labor Law from the University of California in Berkeley. She became a Union Congress representative at the age of 24, a position she held from 2012 to 2015. Dec. 1, 2018, Alcalde made her debut as secretary of Labor and Social Security. The *Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro* (Youngsters Building the Future) project she headed aims to involve 2.6 million people between 18 and 29. This program will provide training throughout the year to allow young people to learn a trade, empowering them to more freely access the labor market.

PANAMA

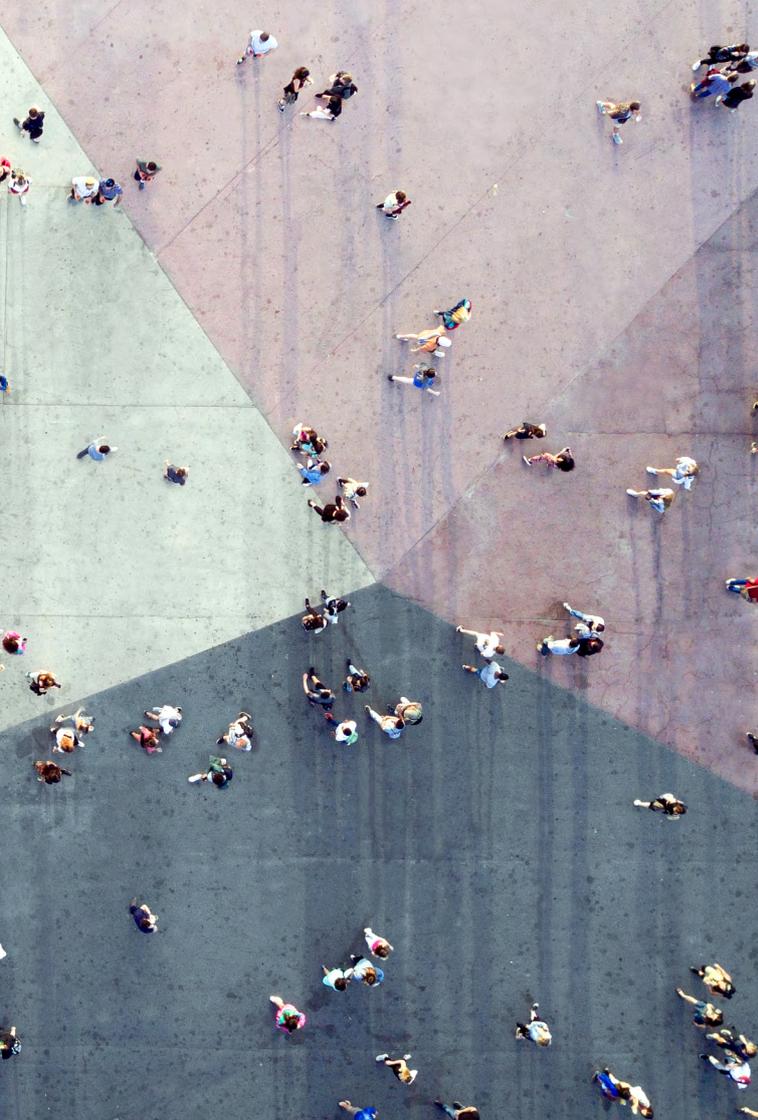
In 1985, Ylya Espino de Marotta began working in a repair workshop for the Panama Canal, officially the Canal Authority. After an ascendant career moving through different positions, Marotta was appointed executive vice president of the Panama Canal Expansion Project in 2012, which publicly began June 2016. The expansion doubled the canal's capacity and allows wider ships with deeper drafts to use the canal's new lock system. In a 2016 TED talk, she described the three simultaneous challenges she had to face: her professional responsibilities, her job responsibilities and the fact that her husband and one of her children were diagnosed with cancer. Forbes magazine has repeatedly included her as one of the most powerful Central American women.

PERU

Peru is among the many countries currently fighting an intense battle against corruption. Together with Sandra Castro, the young District Attorney **Rocio Sanchez** has taken on the high-risk task of investigating Callao crime networks. The case not only reaffirms her image as an energetic and persistent lawyer, but also exposes the use of fake news and rumor campaigns to hinder the judiciary process. November 2011, the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Rights Defense Committee, Feminists for Democracy and Peru's National Human Rights Coalition honored the two district attorneys for their "historical contributions to a corruption-free democracy."

Before successfully getting involved in politics, **Yamila Osorio** was a beauty queen who studied law at Catholic University of Santa Maria. From 2011 to 2014, she served as regional councilor for the Arequipa Department. She became governor for the January 2015 to December 2018 term in a hotly contested election. Commentators consider her among Peru's most potentially impactful political personalities. Osorio has called attention to qualitative differences between the treatment of men and women in executive positions, specifically noting that women are more highly scrutinized and harshly criticized for their mistakes.

Elena Conterno's impressive professional experience cannot easily be summarized. She is an economist with a master's in Public Administration from the John



F. Kennedy Government School at Harvard University who has acted as the minister of Production; she worked at the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Economy and Finance, presidency of the Council of Ministers, director of state-owned companies and consultant for multilateral organizations and transnational companies. She believes her youth, which was spent playing ping-pong and taught her the idea of winning and losing, to be a foundational element in her life. At present, she is president of the National Fishing Society and has expressed concerns about the huge impact of global climate change on the fishing industry.

In addition to her Ph.D. in law, **Marisol Perez Tello** studied Human Rights at the Complutense University of Madrid and Law and the Environment at the Technical University of Madrid. She served as a congresswoman from 2011 to 2016, then as minister of Justice and Human Rights from July 2016 to September 2017. As a former Minister, Tello has spoken out about the importance of seriously examining the mechanisms that led to a “parallel judiciary system.” Her thesis for the betterment of institutions is that a willingness to change is indispensable, stating that “projects that destroy with an intent to rebuild later are not

feasible.” At present, she is the Partido Popular Cristiano party’s general secretary.

Susel Paredes founded the LGBT Legal Civil Association made up of homosexual law professionals, a highly progressive organization in the Peruvian and Latin American cultural context. In addition, Paredes was a cast member on the famous TV soap opera *Carmín* and appeared in the film *Todos somos estrellas* (We are All Stars). She has been a candidate in multiple elections and has participated in several leftist political movements. By the end of 2014, she was the Metropolitan Municipality of Lima’s Control and Fiscalization manager. She gained national notoriety by visiting the city’s most dangerous neighborhoods.

Marisa Glave’s interest in politics and public affairs dates back to her student days. While studying sociology at Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, she chaired the institution’s Student Federation during 2002 and 2003. In 2004, she became councilor for the Metropolitan Municipality of Lima. She has consulted on topics such as rural development, social conflict and citizenship participation. In the April 2016 general elections, she was elected to Congress as the representative of the Lima region. She has been very active in reporting corruption in the judiciary system, specifically targeting relationships between judges and organized crime, such as drug traffickers.

Lima Cómo Vamos is a citizenship observatory that assesses projects and public policies in the Lima and Callao metropolitan areas, and **Mariana Alegre** is its executive director. Her cause is the creation of accessible and inclusive public spaces that stimulate society. She is a lawyer with a master’s in Human Rights who studied city design and social sciences in England. Her vocation for urban matters is reflected in her own daughter, whose name is Lima. She does not drive a car, instead using her bicycle and public transportation—one of the ways she contributes to sustainable human habitation. She defends citizens’ rights to civil disobedience, considering it a natural response to poorly-designed public spaces.

In 2014, **Mariana Costa Checa** created Laboratoria, a company that trains low income women in web development. The initiative’s immediate success has led organizations such as Google, the Interamerican Development Bank, Microsoft, Citi Foundation and others to join in as allies. Checa has been recognized by institutions such as the

BBC, Google and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has given a TED talk, and she participated in a panel with U.S. President Barack Obama and Mark Zuckerberg, the creator of Facebook, in June 2016. *Laboratoria* has expanded from Peru to Brazil, Chile and Mexico.

Sigrid Bazan's public activism started when she was studying Political Science at the Catholic University of Peru, where she chaired the Student Federation. Bazan is a relatively new voice in feminism and left-wing causes. She hosts news program *90 Matinal* on TV channel *Latina* and writes an editorial in newspaper *La República*. Her ongoing agenda includes the defense of human rights, actions against gender-based violence and transparency in politics. The tone of her articles is clear and assertive.

“Osorio has called attention to qualitative differences between the treatment of men and women in executive positions, specifically noting that women are more highly scrutinized and harshly criticized for their mistakes”

PORTUGAL

An experienced parliament member, **Ana Catarina Mendes** made her debut as a member of Portugal's Assembly in 1995, during the VII Legislature. She returned in the VIII, XIX, X, XI and current Legislatures, where she is now a full member of the Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Warranties Committee. Mendes joined the Socialist Party (PS, for its Spanish

acronym), when she was very young. Aided by her long tenure, she attained the position of deputy general secretary of the PS in June 2018, receiving almost 85 percent of votes. A lawyer by trade, she has collaborated on articles encouraging increased solidarity across Europe, with an emphasis on “policies that promote convergence and cohesion, reduce inequality and promote growth and employment.”

Assunção Cristas was born in Luanda, Angola, an old Portuguese colony. She is a lawyer with a Ph.D. in Law from the New University of Lisbon. There, she has also worked as a professor of Private Law. Cristas was the minister of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Regional Planning from June 2011 to November 2015 and is an Assembly representative. She is the opposition leader in the current government, a catholic and a member of the center-right wing. She believes overseeing citizens' interests means improving health, education and public functions, saying, “We must remember that Portugal is not just Lisbon, but a whole diverse country with many different realities.”

Mariana Mortágua is the daughter of Camilo Mortágua, who participated in bank robberies and aircraft disruptions as part of the fight against Antonio de Oliveira Salazar's dictatorship. Mortágua herself is a member of the *Bloque de Izquierda* (Left Bloc; BE for its Portuguese acronym) and Lisbon's representative in the Portuguese Assembly of the Republic. Together with her twin sister, Joana Mortágua, she is among the Portuguese left wing's most emblematic personalities, and is a consistent opponent of austerity policies. She is an economist who graduated from the University of Lisbon and earned a Ph.D. from London University. Following the Banco Espírito Santo crisis, she has been very active in the public sphere. She has spoken out against southern European countries' austerity politics and has co-authored several books on the topic.

Margarida Matos Rosa faces one of today's biggest challenges: the creation of reliable methods to investigate and track cartels. Since November 2016, Rosa has chaired the Portuguese Competition Authority. She graduated magna cum laude in Economics from Catholic University of Leuven and received a master's in Public Affairs from Princeton University. She is a Fulbright Scholar who held a conference at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on public policies and risk capital. She has professional experiences in private banking, public supervision and higher education.

SPAIN

After graduating with a degree in Surgical Medicine from the University of Seville, **Maria Jesus Montero** went on to manage health centers. She completed her master's in Hospital Management at business school EADA. A member of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE, for its Spanish acronym), she has held several roles in the Andalusian Government relating to public wellbeing, the treasury and public administration. She has also served as a parliamentary member of Seville's Autonomous Chamber since 2008. June 2018, Montero was appointed the minister of Treasury. There, she managed the general state budget, a particularly complex and difficult issue for the entire government.

“She does not drive a car, instead using her bicycle and public transportation”

Ines Arrimadas had an impressive background as a strategic and operational consultant when she attended “Ciudadanos—Partido de la Ciudadanía,” a party demonstration in 2010. That event was her impetus for political involvement. She studied Law and Business Administration at the Pablo de Olavide University. Afterward, she completed her postgraduate studies in Business Management and International Business at IPAG Business School. In 2012, she was elected as a representative in the Catalanian Parliament. In 2015 and 2017, she was a presidential candidate for the Catalonia Generalitat. In the most recent election, she was able to garner very high support and a large number of votes, though she was ultimately outvoted by the collective favoring Catalanian independence. Feb. 23, Arrimadas announced she would be at the top of the list for Barcelona candidates in the April 28 general election.

At the early age of 15, **Irene Montero** joined the Communist Youth. She studied psychology at the Autonomous University of Madrid and received a master's in Education Psychology. As a Platform for Mortgage Victims (PAH, for its Spanish acronym) member, she joined the Podemos party in 2014. She was responsible for multiple social movements and

acted as cabinet director for the party leader Pablo Iglesias. Montero was elected as a representative in the Madrid General Courts in 2015 and 2017. She is the spokeswoman for *Grupo Confederal Unidos Podemos-En Comú Podem-En Marea*, and a member of the Podemos Coordination Bureau. Montero stated that “the now belongs to women,” and that very soon, the Podemos general secretariat will be a woman.

Andrea Levy is an important spokeswoman for her political party. Since June 2015, Levy has acted as the Partido Popular's deputy secretary general of Research and Programming. Coming from a Jewish family, she studied Institutional Relations and Protocol at the International School of Protocol in Barcelona. Later, she studied Law at Barcelona University. October 2015, she was elected as the Barcelona representative to the Catalanian parliament. She emphasized the importance of Iberoamerican community relations, especially with countries under tyrannical rule.

Several thousand readers of *Lawyer Press News* chose **Maria Eugenia Gay** as the 2018 Woman Lawyer of the Year. June 2017, she was elected dean of Barcelona Law School. She swiftly announced her administration's goals: the proximity, transparency and protection of lawyers, as well as a continued fight for freedom of legal defense. A woman with many responsibilities, she is the vice president of the General Council of Spanish Law (CGAE, for its Spanish acronym) and president of the Asociación Intercolegial de Colegios Profesionales de Cataluña (Intercollegiate Association of Professional Associations of Catalonia). She has also been a professor of Civil Law at Pompeu Fabra University and ESADE.

UNITED STATES

Michelle Obama's book sold over 725,000 copies in 31 languages within 24 hours. The success of her memoir, *Becoming*, reaffirms her reputation as an honest and magnetic woman gifted with an eloquent sense of humor. After graduating with a degree in Sociology and Afro-American studies from Princeton University, she studied Law at Harvard University. As a lawyer, she achieved national notability. She worked at Chicago University and for the Chicago mayor's office. From 2009 to 2017, she was first lady of the United States. As a result of a campaign she spearheaded, 45 million children began engaging in healthier eating habits and 11 million increased their physical activity. Several

polls near the end of 2018 and beginning of 2019 placed her as the most popular woman in the country. In her memoir, Obama denies having any interest in running for United States president.

“We must remember that Portugal is not just Lisbon, but a whole diverse country with many different realities”

A daughter of Indian immigrants who settled in South Carolina, *Nikky Haley* studied Accounting Sciences. She was raised in a Sikh cultural environment but practices the Christian faith. In 1994, she joined a successful family-owned clothing manufacturer. She later served as governor of her state for two consecutive terms, from 2011 to 2017. She was appointed the United Nations U.S. ambassador January 2017, when her name was almost entirely unknown. The clarity and power of her public appearances gave her popularity, but also afforded her the important ability to influence North American foreign affairs. She left her position October 2018. Time magazine listed her as a woman who is changing the world. Though she has denied all rumors of her intent to run, North American political experts insist on considering her as a future presidential candidate.

March 20, 2019, Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan announced the creation of a task force to prevent sexual assault in the U.S. Army. The initiative's author was **Martha Elizabeth McSally**, Arizona senator and one of the highest-ranking women in the Air Force. A combat pilot, she was the first woman to command a squadron: fighter squadron 354. After ban on women flying combat planes ended in 1991, she participated in *Operation Southern Watch* in Iraq. In 2001, she won a lawsuit against the Department of Defense, overturning a requirement for women military to wear *abayas* when outside of Saudi Arabia bases, saying, “If I can fly a combat airplane myself over enemy territory, why can't I drive a car in Saudi territory?”

Nov. 12, 2004, **Tammy Duckworth** was flying a Blackhawk helicopter over Iraqi territory. An attacker struck the aircraft with a rocket launcher, and Duckworth lost both her legs and part of the mobility in her right arm. She had achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel. She studied Art in Hawaii and received a master's in International Affairs from George Washington University. An activist for war veterans' rights, then-President Barack Obama appointed her undersecretary of Veterans' Affairs in 2009, a position she held until 2011. January 2017, she was elected Illinois senator. She is only the second Asian-born (in her case, Thailand-born) United States congresswoman in history.

When people talk about **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** they use words such as “hurricane,” “earthquake” and “eruption.” Until two years ago, Ocasio-Cortez was just one more U.S. citizen and worker. After graduating cum laude in International Relations from Boston University, she worked as a waitress in an environment rife with economic struggle. She decided to compete against Joseph Crowley for the Democratic party candidacy for New York State's 14th congressional district. She defeated him, and in the Nov. 6, 2018, general election, she defeated the Republican candidate as well. Jan. 3, 2019, this Puerto Rican woman—referred to by the press as AOC—became the youngest congresswoman in U.S. history. Some of the core tenets of her agenda include protection of the environment and human rights, tuition-free universities and gun control. Time magazine placed her on the cover of its April 1, 2019, issue, justifying her selection as follows: “She is a political phenomenon: partly activist, partly congresswoman, possibly the best storyteller in the party since Barack Obama and maybe the only democrat at present with the amazing power to challenge President Donald Trump.”

VENEZUELA

During the historical Jan. 5 National Assembly, **Marialbert Barrios** had a responsibility that will go down in history: she was to introduce Juan Guaido Marquez as a candidate to the Assembly's chair. An expert in international matters, she earned a master's in Government and Civil Studies while remaining active in politics and Parliament. She is the current legislature's youngest representative. Her story has been of great interest to mass media; knowing the military was strongly in favor

of Chavez, her critical, realistic observations led her to take important steps in the battle for democracy. She was elected in a district historically dominated by Chavism. In 2017, she participated in the Greater Caracas Region Workshop Cycle for Empowerment and Training of Women to Enact Change.

Manuela Bolivar was six months into a public pregnancy when she was attacked by a group of political loyalists. Some nearby women, also Chavist, protected her, saving her baby.

A psychologist by trade, she holds a master's in Public Management. Bolivar is a National Assembly representative and a key activist in the Venezuelan humanitarian help campaign, which involves not only the management of medicine and food, but also international funds managed by a separate government. She has publicly stated that "humanitarian cooperation requires state infrastructure." She has made broad declarations emphasizing that the opposition does not wish for a coup d'état or any use of violence.

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