

## **José A. Fuentes-Agostini**

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### **PROFILE**

Former Attorney General of Puerto Rico experienced in directing a state agency with outstanding accomplishments in Department of Justice operations and case management areas, including successful law enforcement inter-agency cooperation. Chairman and Founder of Eastport Strategies LLC, a Washington, DC government consulting, business development, and public affairs firm established in 2007. Eastport Strategies LLC develops and implements government and public relations plans for Puerto Rico businesses.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **CHAIRMAN – EASTPORT STRATEGIES LLC, March 2007-Present**

- Founder of government consulting, business development and public affairs firm.
- Represent clients from Puerto Rico aiming to do business in mainland, U.S.A. and clients from mainland U.S.A. aiming to do business in Puerto Rico, U.S.A.
- Manage Puerto Rico legal matters.

#### **CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS – OPERATION SAIL, INC., 2005-Present**

#### **MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS – OPERATION SAIL, INC., 1993-Present**

- Headed America's Congressionally chartered, non-profit tall ship organization in planning OpSail 2012, its 50<sup>th</sup> year commemorating historic American milestones through large scale international sailing events.
- The New York Parade of Sail included 17 tall ships and 10 warships marking the beginning of OpSail 2012 and Fleet Week New York.
- The joint OpSail/U.S. Navy commemorations, the bicentennial of the War of 1812, and the writing of The Star-Spangled Banner provided the context. Additional parades took place in New Orleans, Norfolk, Boston, and Baltimore.
- As board member, helped plan for the entire U.S./International event known as OPSAIL 2000, the largest international maritime gathering in history. Programmed, coordinated and negotiated the ship's itinerary and logistics for all U.S. ports. Directed the entire event for the first port of call in Puerto Rico. In Puerto Rico alone, more than 1.5 million people attended OPSAIL events. The fleet traveled to eight U.S. cities.

#### **SHAREHOLDER - AKERMAN SENTERFITT, April 2006-March 2007**

- Member of the Policy Practice Group representing clients in administrative and legislative matters. Actively involved in commercial and financial legal matters as well as litigation strategies. Managed all Puerto Rico legal matters for clients. Akerman Senterfitt is the largest law firm in Florida.

**OF COUNSEL - REED SMITH LLC, June 2001-March 2006**

- Marketing Chair of the Federal Government Relations Practice Group representing firm clients in administration and legislative matters. Actively involved in commercial and financial legal matters and litigation strategy matters. Oversaw all Puerto Rico legal matters for Firm clients. Reed Smith is a 1000+ attorney firm involved in all practice areas with offices in the U.S. and U.K.

**PRINCIPAL - MORGAN MEGUIRE, May 2000-May 2001**

- Energy consulting firm advising companies promoting new technologies into new markets. Represented legislative and regulatory interests of companies, municipalities, utilities, and other entities before the federal government. As Principal, managed business development for clients in the energy and environmental areas.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL - GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO, 1997-2000**

- Senior attorney directing legal matters for the Government of Puerto Rico, the Governor and the Legislature. Legal representative for over 100 agencies and all government employees in their official and, in some instances, personal capacities.
- The Puerto Rico Department of Justice is comprised of over 500 attorneys and 1700 support and investigative personnel. Supervised the Special Investigations Bureau (over 200 agents). Managed a \$100 million annual budget.
- Held sole jurisdiction in filing state criminal actions for the whole island (4 million population). Wrote analytical comments on all legislation, governed the land and properties registry, oversaw all antitrust matters in the Commonwealth.
- Represented the Governor of Puerto Rico in various forums, testified on many occasions before both houses of the Puerto Rico legislature and testified before U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate Hearings. Presided over and was a member of 36 different Boards of Directors.

**These are some of the many changes and programs that were institutionalized during tenure.**

**PUERTO RICO-U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (HIDTA) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- Chairman of the Puerto Rico-U.S. Virgin Islands High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Executive Committee. Exercised oversight over program policy, budget implementation and evaluation of HIDTA-supported drug control programs consistent with the goals and objectives of the White House Office of Drug Control Policy. Under my Chairmanship the PR-USVI HIDTA was recognized as one of the most successful in the nation. We were able to make all federal law enforcement agencies work together and share information amongst themselves as well as with state law enforcement agencies, optimizing utilization of limited resources.

**STATE COORDINATING OFFICER, HURRICANE GEORGES, SEPTEMBER 1998  
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

- Successfully coordinated the Federal Emergency Management Agency efforts for all 78 municipalities, which were declared individual disaster areas by then President Clinton. I directed the successful recovery and reconstruction of one of the speedier efforts in FEMA history at that time. In just 60 days, the municipalities went from zero water and no power grid to full services, and installed more than 60,000 temporary roofs on homes, while distributing drinking water and ice to all 78 municipalities. Hundreds of electric generators were installed for temporary services at hospitals and other indispensable services.

## OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

- Successfully balanced the Department of Justice budget after a long history of deficits.
- Implemented a new computerized system for the entire department including a Wide Area Network (WAN) to meet all the departments needs, a web page, laptop computers for all attorneys, online research capabilities, and new computers for all support personnel, as well as a new computer system with specialized software for the Registrar of the Property (a system which has operated manually for over 100 years).
- Re-engineered the administration and personnel offices to ensure optimal use of resources and avoid loss of budgeted positions after vacancies, due to ineffective hiring procedures.
- Established aggressive continued education programs for all attorneys in the department.
- Implemented the Specialized Prosecutors office for Domestic Violence, Child abuse and Sexual Crimes.
- Established, implemented and administered Drug Courts.
- Reorganized the Special Investigations Bureau to make it a much more efficient tool in the fight against government corruption and organized crime, and named 75 new agents.
- Established a "Missing Children" office and database which received a national high achievement award after its first year of operation.
- Established a DNA forensic lab.
- Reorganized existing Witness Protection Program to make it functional and constructed new \$8 million facility.
- Filed civil action in U.S. District Court against tobacco companies that settled for 2.3 Billion Dollars for the Government of Puerto Rico, was a member of the Allocation Committee established by the Attorneys General to establish distribution parameters for the settlement funds.

## OTHER LEGAL EXPERIENCE:

### **Managing/Partner** - Totti, Rodriguez-Diaz & Fuentes Law Offices, 1995-1996

- Medium sized law firm specializing in Commercial, Media and Federal litigation.

### **Managing Partner** - Dominguez & Totti Law Offices, 1992-1995

- A full-service law firm specializing in labor, admiralty, media, real estate and civil litigation. Managed day-to-day operations, during which time succeeded in developing the firm from 7 to 22 attorneys.

### **Senior Partner** - Fuentes-Agostini, Laws & Lizarribar, 1987-1992

- General practice law firm: state civil and federal criminal cases. Extensive White-Collar jury trial litigation and shopping center lease negotiations.

**Partner - Troncoso & Fuentes-Agostini, 1985-1987**

- General civil litigation practice: civil rights, admiralty, aviation and general torts.

**Junior Partner - Benjamin Acosta Law Offices, 1983-1985**

- Civil state and federal defense of personal injury cases. Handled full trials in every principal courthouse in Puerto Rico.

**Attorney - Santori & Fuentes -Agostini Law Offices, 1982-1983**

- Civil state and federal defense representation in personal injury and general tort claims.

**Assistant Federal Public Defender, 1980-1982**

- Defense of federal criminal cases assigned by the Federal Public Defender for Puerto Rico

**Law Clerk – Feldstein, Gelpí and Hernández Law Firm, 1980**

**EDUCATION**

**J.D.**, Interamerican University School of Law, Puerto Rico, 1980

**B.S.**, Business Administration, University of Tampa, Tampa, Florida, 1977

**High School Diploma**, Colegio San José, Puerto Rico, 1973

- Top member of Forensics Team (speech and drama), President's Award

**ADMISSIONS**

- Court of Appeals, District of Columbia (2004)
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia (1999)
- Supreme Court of the United States of America (1985)
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit (1981)
- U.S. Court of International Trade (1981)
- State and Supreme Court of Puerto Rico (1980)
- U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico (1980)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico Bar Association
- DC Bar
- Federal Bar Association
- National Association of Attorneys General
- Society of Attorneys General Emeritus
- Hispanic National Bar Association
- Republican National Lawyers Association, PR Chapter

**REPORTED CASES**

30 published cases. Personally argued 17 cases before the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

**LANGUAGES**

Fully bilingual in English and Spanish.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- The Foundation of the Federal Bar Association; Life Fellow.
- Member Federal Bar Association Government Relations Committee, 2002/2006.

- Member Federal Bar Association National Council, 2001/2005.
- Member, National Membership Committee, Federal Bar Association, 1994-1996.
- Chair, Federal Bar Admittance Review Course (US District Court - Puerto Rico), 1991-1996.
- Professor, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure Admittance Review Course, 1991-1996.
- Chapter President, Board of Directors of the Puerto Rico, Chapter of The Federal Bar Association (third largest chapter in the US), 1991.
- Member, National Convention Organizing Committee, FBA, 1989.
- Chair, Federal Bar Association (P.R. Chapter), Federal Criminal Practice Seminar, 1987.
- Member, Board of Directors of the Puerto Rico, Chapter of The Federal Bar Association, 1986-1992.