



Wilka Toppins

The Corporate Latina™

Speaker, Career Coach, Diversity Strategist



FULL BIOGRAPHY

Attorney and senior executive Wilka Toppins offers over 20 years of combined legal, corporate leadership and entrepreneurial experience as well as extensive community involvement.

Currently, Wilka is an attorney with a private practice specializing in corporate law and commercial litigation. In that role, Wilka works exclusively with several high profile business clients as their outside general counsel where she manages and directs all their legal needs. In addition to her law practice, Wilka is also a Principal at Coastal Wealth Management, L.P., a Houston based investment firm specializing in the active management of individual investment accounts. Coastal Wealth is a registered financial advisor. In that role, Wilka is responsible for all marketing and sales efforts at Coastal as well as client development and relations. At Coastal, Wilka developed a groundbreaking monthly investment educational seminar aptly called the “Coastal Wealth Investment Soiree” specifically designed for the individual investor who is looking for information and networking opportunities in the financial world.

Formerly, Wilka worked with Macy’s, Inc. as their Vice President - Diversity Strategies. This presented a groundbreaking role for Wilka as the first Latina holding a corporate vice president position at Macy’s. In that role, Wilka was responsible for designing and driving a diversity strategy to all parts of the business concerning the Latino segment in the U.S. Her key duties involved developing the external corporate community outreach strategy with the Latino segment, developing strategic partnerships with Latino national organizations, creating strategic programs with organizations to meet the strategic goals of Macy’s and developing sustainable relationships of mutual benefit and helping the retail giant enhance its brand and drive customer loyalty with this segment.

For 14 years and prior to joining Macy’s, Wilka was a practicing attorney with the corporate in-house legal departments of Fortune 100 giants such as Exxon Company and SBC Communications Inc where she was a trial attorney and a corporate attorney. She eventually established and managed her own law firm in Houston, Texas bearing her name, The Toppins Law Firm, P.C.

Wilka holds a law degree with honors from Tulane Law School in New Orleans and a bachelor’s degree with honors in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Throughout her career Wilka has been recognized with several national and local awards, namely, the 2006 “Top 25 Lawyers in Houston” by H Texas Magazine, the 2006 Ana Maria Arias Memorial Fund as a “Top 10 Latina Entrepreneur” presented by LatinaStyle Magazine and Wells Fargo, the 2006 “Emerging 10 Business” award presented by the Houston Minority Business Council and the Corporate Excellence Award presented by the League of Latin American Citizens.



Wilka Toppins is a Speaker, Career Coach and Diversity Strategist. Please contact us at:
www.thecorporatelatina.com

To book Wilka email us at info@thecorporatelatina.com or call 713-621-8588



FULL BIOGRAPHY - CONTINUED

In addition to her career successes, Wilka is also nationally recognized and respected as a national Latina leader contributing a strong record of civic and community service at the city, state and national level. Wilka has been a part of the following organizations: Board Member of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Board Member of Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement (HACE), Board Member of the Galleria Chamber of Commerce, Board Member of Variety Children's Charity of Houston, Board Member of the Houston Hispanic Bar Association, Board Member of the Houston Hispanic Media Professionals, Board Member of the Sociedad de Puertorriqueños en Houston, Inc., Board Member of the National Hispanic Professional Organization (NHPO), Member of the Houston Minority Business Council, Steering Committee Member of the Minority Counsel Program of the State Bar of Texas where she assists with the development of the program for its annual Minority Counsel Conference as well as serving as a CLE-speaker, Alumni of Leadership Houston and Board of Trustees of the Cincinnati Opera.

In addition to her long list of private organizations, Wilka also was a proud member of the Texas Trade Delegation representing the Office of the Governor, in Mexico City as a delegation speaker in the state-sponsored quarterly "Invest In Texas" business seminars held across Mexico.

Wilka, who is from Puerto Rico, is completely bilingual in Spanish and has developed an expertise working with Latin American entrepreneurs, investors and corporations who want to enter the United States with a new business or an established business. Wilka has also worked with US companies who have business operations in countries such as Mexico, Venezuela, Puerto Rico and El Salvador.

Wilka is a frequent public speaker to national and regional conventions and organizations on topics such as diversity, career development, leadership, and various business legal topics.

She moved to the U.S at the age of 18 years to attend college at the University of Massachusetts. At the time, she did not know the English language. Wilka graduated cum laude. She then attended law school at the respected Tulane Law School in New Orleans, where she also rose to the top of her class graduating cum laude. Wilka has a son, Edward, who is 20 years old. Wilka had him when she was in law school.



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