



MAY 24, 2005
SHEILA MCKENNA

PROFILE: JULIAN GOMEZ

Associate in the corporate department at Proskauer Rose LLP. Recently elected to the board of directors of The Parent-Child Home Program (www.parent-child.org), an early-childhood school readiness program that focuses on parent-child verbal interaction to develop language and pre-literacy skills. Member of the alumni association of Inroads Inc., a national nonprofit that trains and develops minority youth for professional careers

BIOGRAPHY

31 and native of White Plains. In high school, was recruited by Inroads; worked as a summer intern at Chubb Corp. for four years. Graduated from Cornell University and Pace University Law School. Has worked at Proskauer Rose LLP for three years. Single and lives on the Upper West Side

WHY HE'S INVOLVED

"The Parent-Child Program came into my life when I was 3 years old. My parents, who were from Colombia, didn't speak English, and my mom, who was only 22 years old, needed help. An instructor from the Parent-Child Program came to the house and taught my mother how to interact with me by using little games. What happened was that we bonded over education at home. For my contemporaries, school ended at 3 p.m., but I associated coming home and talking with my mom as an extension of my education. Which was key."

FOCUS

"As a graduate of the [Parent-Child] program, I can speak about the benefits first-hand. Secondly, as an attorney, I can provide the organization with the legal assistance they might need. But, most important, I feel strongly about the program because they didn't forget me as I grew older. While I was a college student, my mom was stricken with breast cancer and hospitalized for some time. They found a scholarship that allowed me to stay in school. This program has been there to assist me throughout my life, and now I'm in a situation where I can help other kids."

PROUD OF

"I was the first member of my family to graduate from college. That was a tremendous honor and something that I didn't do by myself. It was in large part the sacrifice of my mom and others, including teachers who believed in me and recognized, early on, a certain talent and eagerness to learn. It was also the early foundation that the Parent-Child Program helped me to develop."