



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

517 East Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Assistant Attorney General Thomas E. Perez

Biography

Assistant Attorney General Perez was nominated by President Obama to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, and was sworn in to that position on October 8, 2009. AAG Perez previously served as the Secretary of Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR), which protects consumers through the enforcement of a wide range of consumer rights laws, including the mortgage setting, enforces workplace safety laws that provide critical safeguards to workers and communities; enforces wage and hour and other worker protection laws that ensure wage security; and collaborates with businesses and workers to address critical workforce development needs and build a world-class workforce. AAG Perez was a principal architect of a sweeping package of state and foreclosure reforms to address the foreclosure crisis in Maryland.

AAG Perez has spent his entire career in public service. From 2002 until 2006, he was a member of the first Montgomery County Council. He was the first Latino ever elected to the Council, and served as Council President in 2005. Earlier in his career, he spent 12 years in federal public service, most of them as a career prosecutor for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. As a federal prosecutor for the Division, he prosecuted and supervised the prosecution of some of the Department's most high profile civil rights cases, including a hate crimes case in Texas involving a group of white supremacists who went on a deadly and racially motivated crime spree. AAG Perez later served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under Attorney General Janet Reno. Among other responsibilities, he chaired the interagency Worker Exploitation Task Force, which oversaw a variety of initiatives designed to protect vulnerable workers.

AAG Perez also served as Special Council to the late Senator Edward Kennedy's principal advisor on civil rights, criminal justice and constitutional issues. For the final two years of the Clinton administration, AAG Perez served as Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the United States Department of Health and Human Services. AAG Perez was a law professor for six years at University of Maryland School of Law and was a part-time professor at the George Washington School of Public Health.

AAG Perez received a Bachelor's degree from Brown University in 1983, a Master's of Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1987 and a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School in 1987.