Biography of Antonio C. Gonzalez

Antonio C. Gonzalez, Democrat of the City of New York, was born in New York City, April 30, 1888; he attended and graduated from the New York Public Schools and the New York College Preparatory School; he then attended George Washington University School of Medicine, and after two years of study, because of illness, he transferred to the School of Law of said University, graduating in 1909 with the degree of LL.B., and was admitted by the Superior Court of Connecticut to the Bar of that State in 1910, and entered upon the general practice of the law at Hartford, Connecticut, thereafter moving to New York City, where he was admitted by the Appellate Division, First Department, to the Bar of the State of New York in 1913. Thereupon he became actively associated with the well known law firm of Olcott, Mestre and Gonzalez, which his father had established in 1876, and of which his father was a member. The said law firm of Olcott, Mestre and Gonzalez, besides conducting a general practice, specialized in international and Spanish law, hence he had an opportunity and did acquire a well grounded knowledge of law and legal procedure in all its branches. In addition to all his many activities with said firm, he in 1926, received and accepted a call to become an associate counsel for the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures Corporation, in charge of foreign and corporate matters, where he continued until 1932, when he found it necessary to again devote his entire time and attention to the business of the said firm of Olcott, Mestre and Gonzalez.
He is a member of the Federal Bar of Connecticut, New York and District of Columbia, and admitted to practice before the various Boards and Bureaus of the Government at Washington D.C., and is counsel in many large matters involving considerable financial amounts, now pending before the Claims Commission of the United States with Germany and Mexico, at Washington, D.C., in representation of large American corporations.

His political affiliations are with the Democratic Party and its principles, and he is and has been a continued and ardent supporter, a zealous advocate of and an active worker in the Democratic cause.

He is a member of the New York County Lawyers Association, American Bar Association, Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and other clubs and associations.

He was married in 1911 to Evelyn Quinlan, who is also an attorney and active worker in benevolent and welfare organizations, and who is now an Assistant District Attorney of New York County.

He served with the Seventh Regiment Infantry, New York National Guard, from which he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, and assigned to the Ninth Coast Artillery Regiment, New York National Guard; thereafter he was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant, and assigned to the Second Field Artillery Regiment, New York National Guard. Upon the call of the President in 1916, he was mustered into Federal Service, and during the World War 1917-1918 he served as an officer of Field Artillery of the United States National Guard Reserve.
For the past nineteen years he has been volunteer counsel to various Spanish and other charitable organizations, and also the Catholic Big Sisters of New York. During said period he has also rendered free legal service to the poor and needy Puerto Rican and other Spanish people in New York City, in which work he has had the invaluable co-operation of his wife through her many years of experience in social welfare work, so that with their combined knowledge of the Spanish language and the customs of the Puerto Rican people, they have materially assisted many needy cases.

He is the last male descendent on his fathers side, who together with his forebears, for seven generations have been prominent, learned and active in the field of jurisprudence and practicing advocates and lawyers. His great great grandfather, Raphael Jose Gonzalez born 1734 in Cuba, graduating as Doctor of Laws from the University of Santo Tomas de Aquino, Santo Domingo in 1759, receiving his diploma from the King of Spain, July 15, 1759, and was appointed and sent as District Attorney for Santo Domingo and later as Attorney General to the Crown for Puerto Rico. His grandfather Jose Antonio Gonzalez born in Cuba 1787, graduated as Doctor of Laws from the University of Habana, Cuba, in 1812, and received his diploma from the King of Spain Fernando VII at Cadiz, Spain, March 18, 1812; he held various important positions for the Crown, among which was Treasurer of Habana, Cuba, and as a result he was decorated, for meritorious service, with the Cross of Charles III and Isabela the Catholic by the King of Spain. His father Antonio C. Gonzalez, Sr., born in
Cuba 1844, graduated from the University of Habana, Cuba, at seventeen years of age with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and Letters, and on reaching his majority the following year he received his inheritance a part of which consisted of slaves, but because of his inherent opposition to slavery, he gave them their freedom, and the Government of Spain, confiscated all his property and sentenced him to death; in order to avoid this penalty imposed upon him, his friends smuggled him aboard the S.S. Black Hawk, which after running the blockade arrived in New York, July 25, 1862; thereupon he studied with the law firm of Coudert Brothers, and he became admitted to the Bar of the State of New York, and immediately formed the law firm of Oloott, Mestre & Gonzalez, specializing in international and Spanish law. Much time was devoted by him in the Causes of Cuba and Puerto Rico and their emancipation from Spain, and during the Spanish-American War he was often consulted by the Congress of the United States, because of his vast experience and knowledge concerning Cuba and Puerto Rican matters, customs and affairs, thereafter he assisted in the formation of the Spanish-American Claims Commission and acted in representation of claims against Spain before that Commission, and for his services was decorated by the Cuban Government.