

Virginia Lazala

Virginia Lazala is Vice President and Legal Head for the LACan (Latin America and Canada) Region and for Human Resources for Novartis Oncology, a global business unit within Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation (NPC).

Ms. Lazala has been with the Novartis group of companies since February of 2000 having joined the company from Hudson United Bank where she was Senior Vice President and Bank Counsel. Since joining Novartis, she has held various positions of increasing responsibility. From 2002-2005, Ms. Lazala served as General Counsel for Novartis Animal Health, Inc. in Greensboro, NC. She returned to her home base in New Jersey in 2005 and progressed through NPC to her current role as a Vice President of the Company.

Ms. Lazala was brought to the Bronx, NY from her native Dominican Republic at a young age by her single mom to fulfill their American dream. Ms. Lazala earned a scholarship for A Better Chance, Inc. to attend a prestigious private school in New York City. She went on to Wellesley College to obtain a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Political Science. Ms. Lazala earned a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center. Upon graduation from law school, Ms. Lazala returned to the Bronx to give back to her community as a prosecutor in the Bronx District Attorney's Office.

Ms. Lazala believes in paying it forward. She serves and has served on various non-profit boards and mentors many at Novartis and in her community. Most recently, Ms. Lazala was featured in the Hispanic Executive November/December 2016 issue for her role as a mentor. Also, she was named one of Hispanic Business 15 Elite Women to Watch in 2011 and LatinaStyle Magazine's Top 5 Executives for 2009.

Ms. Lazala currently lives in South Orange, New Jersey with her husband, David Southers, and her two college-age children, Arianna and Jared, and their mastiff Zena.

