



Eli N. Avila, MD, JD, MPH, FCLM, DABLM

Dr. Eli N. Avila is a nationally recognized public health executive, seasoned administrator, fiduciary, physician, attorney, and academician. He currently serves as the Chief Federal Medical Officer for the United States Department of Defense – Watervliet Arsenal (est. 1813). Additionally, Dr. Avila is currently the Distinguished Visiting Professor in Public Health at the School of Health Sciences of the New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY. Prior to this role, he served for twelve years as clinical faculty at Columbia University’s Ophthalmology Department and Residency program, where he taught corneal transplant surgery. He is a frequently invited lecturer in schools of medicine, law, and public health. Furthermore, he is President-Elect of the American College of Legal Medicine.

He served as the Senate confirmed 26th Secretary of Health of Pennsylvania, the first Latino and second physician/attorney to hold that role since the creation of the health department in 1905. As Secretary of Health, he was a member of the Governor’s cabinet, where he served as the Executive Health Policy Advisor to the Governor and as the Commonwealth’s public health liaison to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services and White House counsel. During his tenure, White House Counsel requested that he mediate a constitutional public health controversy affecting the residents of the Commonwealth. He diplomatically succeeded in that task. He has co-authored more than twenty-two public health laws, which have all been signed into law. As a fiduciary of the public trust, he has identified almost \$100M in fraud, waste, and abuse during his various government tenures, which include serving as the confirmed 9th Commissioner of Health of Orange County, NY and as the former Chief Deputy Commissioner of Health of Suffolk County, NY. During his decade of executive public health service, he and his departments have been awarded approximately \$85 million in competitive grants for public health programs.

As the son of a hardworking Puerto Rican New York City cab driver and housewife, who was raised in public housing, he is no stranger to disparities in health care. To that end, he has pursued health equity awareness as a public health official and successfully rectified gaps in healthcare

among ethnically diverse and economically disadvantaged communities. He has engaged stakeholders and the affected communities in a culturally sensitive manner.

His academic pedigree includes Phillips Academy as a full scholarship student under the “A Better Chance” program, an ScB in Biology from Brown University, an MD from the Brown University Medical School, a JD with cum laude honors from the St. John’s University School of Law, and an MPH with high honors from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He is a graduate of the highly exclusive Executive Education program for State Health Officials at the Harvard School for Public Health and of the prestigious National Preparedness Leadership Initiative, a joint program between the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and the Harvard School of Public Health.