

Ramón Enrique Bauzá (Bauzá Higuera in the Spanish-language form that includes his matronymic) died at his home in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, a suburb of San Juan, on September 29, 2015, after a long illness. His private funeral in San Juan was attended by numerous dignitaries from the island's sporting, legal and political communities, including his boyhood friend and former law partner, Rafael Hernández-Colón, a three-term former Governor of Puerto Rico.

Ramón arrived in New Haven in 1960 with the Class of 1963 upon his graduation with honors in political and social science from the University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras, PR. He was one of two Hispanics in his class; Clotilde Benítez, also from Puerto Rico and now of Washington, DC, was the other. I met them upon my later arrival in New Haven. I was the only mainland Puerto Rican at Yale Law School in the early 1960s, but I knew from my study of the island's history and politics that the talented and engaging small cohort from my homeland were all the children of the new, technocratic elite that had emerged from, or led, the island's successful and celebrated economic development program ("Operation Bootstrap") in the era of its first popularly elected Governor, the charismatic four-term governor, Luis Muñoz Marín (1948-1964).

In Puerto Rico there were no plutocrats or oligarchs in the stereotypical Latin American tradition. Puerto Rico had always been poor and agrarian and its public leadership had traditionally been drawn from the professions and from the ranks of small business. In the remarkable generation of the parents of Ramón Bauzá and Clotilde Benítez, Operation Bootstrap had transformed Puerto Rico from the agrarian "poorhouse of the Caribbean" into a modern, though yet quite poor, industrial society. Not surprisingly, Ramón's father and namesake, a businessman, was also an influential Senator and a confidante of Governor Muñoz Marín; Clotilde's father, Jaime Benítez, was likewise an intimate of Governor Muñoz Marín and from 1942 to 1971 served successively as the Chancellor and President of the University of Puerto Rico, and from 1973 to 1977, as the island's Resident Commissioner (non-voting delegate) in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Ramón Bauzá was born and grew up in Puerto Rico's second city, Ponce, famous in those years for its traditionalism (some would say provincialism). But the Ramón Bauzá I met in New Haven was not provincial in any way. He was unusually sophisticated, well-traveled and broadly-read in world history and politics, with a deep knowledge of European and Latin American history, socialism and totalitarianism. I well recall spending the days of the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962 with him in his room in the Sterling Law Buildings, glued to his short-wave radio listening to Radio Moscow, and especially Radio Havana, in an effort to learn what the other protagonists were saying about events.

After Yale, Ramón returned to Puerto Rico, and after a clerkship on the island's Supreme Court, surprised some of his friends by returning to "old world" Ponce rather than cosmopolitan San Juan to practice law. There he entered practice ("Hernández Colón y Bauzá") with his friend Hernández Colón, who by his late twenties and early thirties has already served a term as Attorney General and as President of Puerto Rico's Senate. Upon the latter's election in 1972 as Governor, at the age of 36, Ramón continued the practice with the Governor's younger brother, later opening a second office in San Juan. There he would practice successfully for more than four decades, declining several opportunities for appointive office because of the financial strains

of a growing family while maintaining a lively presence in the social and professional life of Puerto Rico. He was prominent in a variety of sporting activities, including yachting, skeet shooting and hunting. He was an informal but influential adviser to Hernández Colón, and helped recruit others for public service (full disclosure: it was he who recruited me in 1972 to serve as the head of the Commonwealth's Washington office and special counsel to Hernández Colón).

Ramón is survived by his wife of 43 years, the German-born Christina, and their three daughters, all now resident in Washington, DC (Vanessa, a journalist with the World Bank; Yolanda, an events planner; and Patricia, a psychiatrist in Georgetown), and by two children from his first marriage to Marilyn Piurek of West Haven, CT, whom he had met while he was at Yale and who accompanied him to Ponce (Elizabeth, an in-house lawyer for a hedge fund in London, and Ramón, III, a specialist in foreign currency trading in the financial services industry in New York and Greenwich, CT).