

ECHAVESTE, MARÍA (1954–)

Echaveste's concern for the rights of workers led her to a political career. She received a scholarship to Stanford University earning a B.A. degree in 1976, and a J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1980. A corporate attorney, Echaveste worked with the New York City Board of Elections and received recognition and awards for her achievements. A Mexican American, Jewish woman, Echaveste headed presidential candidate, William J. Clinton's 1992 Latino outreach efforts. She roused Latino support for Clinton in his second presidential election, 1997-2001, and in 1998 was named Assistant to the President and Director of Public Liaison. As such she held the highest White House position of any Latina. Echaveste is the co-founder of a consulting firm in Washington, D.C. called Nueva Vista and comments regularly on the political scene on the PBS show "To The Contrary."