

## **Biography**

Sheriff Lupe Valdez Sheriff, Dallas County Sheriff's Department

Lupe Valdez was elected Sheriff of Dallas County, Texas on November 4, 2004. She took the office of the highest ranking law enforcement officer in the County of Dallas on January 1, 2005. Sheriff Valdez is the only female Sheriff in the State of Texas. Sheriff Valdez has been in Law Enforcement for over 30 years at both the Federal and State levels.

Lupe has worked to protect the lives and property of American citizens at home and abroad. With experience in homeland security, anti-terrorism investigations and criminal law enforcement, she is uniquely qualified in her position as Dallas County Sheriff.

As a young child, Lupe learned strong work ethics. She put herself through college to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from what today is Southern Nazarene University. To do this, she sometimes had to work up to two jobs while carrying a full class schedule. These same work habits propelled her career in law enforcement. While working in law enforcement, she demonstrated her commitment to constant improvement and education by earning a Master of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Lupe's commitment to public service continued during her service as a board member of the City of Dallas Civil Service Adjunct Board, the Funding Panel Review of the United Way of Greater Dallas, and a mentor in the Dallas Independence School District's Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program. She has been extensively involved with Women's Business Network and is a member of:

- Women in Federal Law Enforcement Association
- Texas Narcotics Officer's Association
- Hispanic Women's Network of Texas

Since taking office, Lupe has received the following awards:

- Women 's Leadership Exchange Compass Award
- Citigroup Women Changing America Award
- Dallas Morning News Distinguished Women Lecture Series
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Dallas Chapter Political Awareness and Involvement Award
- Haggar Clothing Women in Diversity
- 2005 Outstanding Hispanic Women of America
- Texas NAACP Award
- 2005 Women Leaders of America
- 2005 Hispanic Leaders of America
- Girls Inc. She Knows Where She's Going