

Profiles in Progress: Client Stories

Dr. Oscar and Diana Urrea

Oscar Urrea immigrated from Manicales, Colombia in South America at the age of 24. He was the son of an attorney and his wife, who Oscar credits as “the dynamic force of the family.” Oscar, the second of his parents’ eight children, had attended college and medical school at the University of Caldas before coming to the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Psychiatry for specialty training, which was completed in 1973. He met Diana in 1969 who was a nurse at Columbia Hospital in Pittsburgh’s East End while he was an intern doing rotation there. 1973 was an eventful year as Oscar completed his residency and Diana delivered their first child, Alex after the family moved to Europe so Oscar could pursue post graduate psychiatric studies at the University of London. At the conclusion of that year, the family moved back to our area and Oscar opened medical offices in Monongahela and Oakland. He simultaneously served as Medical Director for the Mon/Yough Behavioral Health Clinic in McKeesport. Daughter Lisa was born in 1976 and son Christian in 1980.

Oscar and Diana opened their Peters

Township and Washington, PA offices shortly after Monongahela and maintain those three offices today and have a thriving practice. It is interesting to point out that managed care has devastated many specialty practices, like psychiatry, by controlling referrals and reimbursements. Realizing that at the onset of those changes, Oscar struck contracts with self-paying employers, such as municipalities, to provide mental health care for their workers and families. As a result, he and Diana, who manages the offices, have a successful practice of psychiatry and psychology.

Diana grew up in Apollo, PA, a mining town, and she was the daughter of a coal miner. Diana attended Apollo Ridge High School and the School of Nursing at Columbia Hospital. Oscar grew up in relatively modest circumstances in South America. He got through school on scholarships and by working part time. That means that both Oscar and Diana had to work extremely hard for what they accomplished, with nothing handed to them. Now they enjoy their three children and a successful medical practice. Oldest child, Alex, followed

grandpa’s lead and is a staff attorney covering government affairs for a Washington, D.C. law firm. He is married to Zarina, also an attorney, who works for Reed Smith in Washington and Pittsburgh. Daughter, Lisa, lives in New York City and is in charge of Internet business sales for Nautica, and son, Christian, is in medical school at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Oscar’s counsel to younger folks is to, “Stay in school as long as possible. Don’t lose heart. Life is long and you can succeed.” He credits Fragasso Financial Advisors for “earning his trust and for providing a personal aspect that can only be done by a few.” We appreciate the trust Oscar and Diana have placed in us. And we have valued them as clients since 1974. They are another example of the American Dream realized through hard work, education and perseverance.