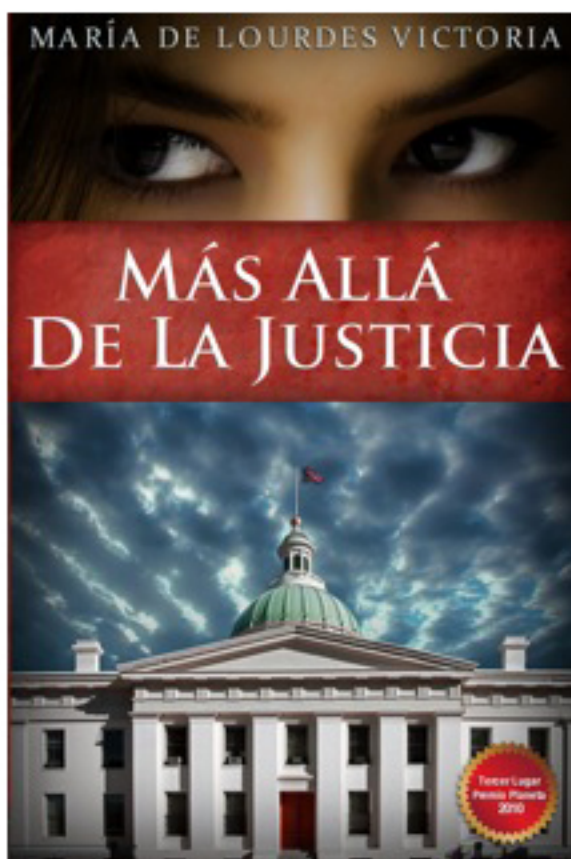


## BOOK INFORMATION



PREMIO PLANETA 2010  
THIRD PLACE WINNER

**M**elanie is a detective at the public defenders' office in the city of Seattle. Her job is to investigate crimes allegedly perpetrated by the people the agency represents. She is an attractive, savvy and very angry woman. Her husband recently abandoned her, and she must now do her best to support her daughters alone.

Sofia, a newly hired, Mexican attorney, is also trying to cope with her own defiant teenage sons, and with the responsibilities of her new job. When the pair is teamed up, conflict arises, and is Rohnda, the affable African-American secretary, who keeps the peace, expertly navigating their differences with her natural humor and tolerance.

The story, told in the first person narrative of the three characters, transports the reader into the harsh world of litigation, and to the complex and tormented lives of the accused: psychopaths, gangsters, prostitutes and drug addicts. Beyond Justice provides an intimate, inside perspective, of the criminal judicial system that our society has created in the pursuit of Justice.

"Más allá de la justicia is a novel in three voices that narrates, from different perspectives, the intricacies of a judicial system in the United States, at times verging on the absurd. María de Lourdes Victoria is a masterly narrator who has the ability to recreate characters who have perhaps crossed her path, to insert them into this extremely interesting and rich novel."

— Rita Wirkala, PhD.

## MARIA DE LOURDES VICTORIA

María is a Latina, bilingual author, currently residing in Seattle, Washington. She writes novels, short stories and children's books in English and Spanish. Her first novel, *Los Hijos del Mar*, was the finalist for the Mariposa Book Award at the International Latino Book Awards. Her second novel, *Más allá de la Justicia*, took third place at the Premio Planeta in Barcelona, Spain.



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