Maria I. Torre, union advocate, comes from a strong union family. Her father was a member of the UAW and her mother a member of the IBEW. She is a United Flight Attendant since 1984. She is the UALMEC Grievance Chairperson for the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA representing United Airlines Flight Attendants for over 30 years, in disciplinary matters and contractual disputes through mediation and arbitration. Maria is also a member of the UAL/AFA System Board of Adjustment.

Maria was part of the negotiations in 2008 for an Interest Based Dispute Resolution process that is now currently in the collective bargaining agreement. Arbitrator Dan Kosanovich was part of the team to the successful attainment of the Dispute Resolution Letter of Agreement. The negotiated process resulted in resolution to hundreds of outstanding open grievances. The Dispute Resolution process was discussed and presented during the 2009 National Academy Meeting.

Maria had the privilege to speak on the Airline Panel at prior National Academy of Arbitrators meetings, and has been a yearly attendee.

The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA represents 50,000 Flight Attendants at 19 airlines, including over 25,000 Flight Attendants at United Airlines.