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LATINA FUTURES

Over the last fifty years, the *Chicanx-Latinx Law Review* (*CLLR*) has provided an essential forum for the discussion of issues affecting the Latinx community, and other marginalized communities, that mainstream law journals continue to ignore. In publishing Volume One, *CLLR* introduced to the nation the first legal journal that recognized how common law, statutes, legislative policy, and political propositions impact the Latinx community. The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, Nevada Supreme Court, and New Jersey Superior Court have cited *CLLR*.

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LATINA FUTURES FOREWORD

Editor-in-Chief, Evelyn Sanchez Gonzalez

UCLA School of Law’s *Chicanx-Latinx Law Review (CLLR)* proudly presents the post-symposium issue: *Volume 40: Latina Futures*.

To tackle the underrepresentation of Latina legal scholars at UCLA Law and elsewhere in the U.S., and to center the Latina experience in law and policy, *CLLR*, partnering with UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Institute (LPPI), the Chicano Studies Research Center, and the Latina Lawyers Bar Association, helped curate the Latina Futures: Transforming the Nation Through Law and Policy symposium. In late January of 2024, over 340 law and policy leaders—students, practitioners, and advocates—convened at UCLA’s Luskin Conference Center to address the injustices Latinas and our community members face in immigration, education, voting, labor, technology, the judiciary, the corporate sector, government, and academia.

The *Latina Futures* publication highlights the voices of six Latina scholars and/or law and policy advocates.

Sonja Diaz’s, *Persistent Inequities and Underrepresentation as the Genesis of the 2024 Latina Futures Symposium*, underscores the micro- and macro- inequities that gave rise to the Latina Futures symposium. As an example of a micro-inequity, she points out that UCLA School of Law has no U.S. Latina faculty, and yet gets to call itself a “premier setting for studying the intersection of race and the law” in a county where Latinos make up 49 percent of the population. As a macro-inequity, Latinas are dwarfed by recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions in abortion and affirmative action and legislative inaction by the U.S. Congress in immigration, education, and reproductive justice.

Dr. Jill Cruz’s article, *Still Too Few and Far Between: The Status of Latina Lawyers in the U.S.*, presents in-depth research on Latinas making up only 3 percent of all attorneys in the legal field. Latinas entering law school and pursuing legal careers over the past fifteen years represent a beacon of hope. However, disparities persist: Latinas experience lower acceptance rates into top-tier law schools, wage gaps, and significant underrepresentation in top legal roles at law firms, corporate law offices, the judiciary, and legal academia.

In *How Our Stories Shape Our Work: Fighting for the Heart of Texas*, Rochelle Garza shares her journey to civil rights leadership, becoming the youngest chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and securing an important litigation win—“the Garza Notice”—which allows teenagers in immigration detention to still have access to abortion today.

In *Ghost Warrants and Mistaken Arrests: How They Haunt the Marginalized*, public defender Malia Castillo reveals how outdated and inaccurate warrants disproportionately detain or incarcerate Latinx individuals. Castillo calls for concerted scholars, legislators, and judicial officials, to come together to address the unexplored issue.

CLLR’s own Chief Executive Editor, Angelica Félix-D’Egidio, in *Education Inequity for Mixtec Students in California Public Schools: A Human Rights Approach to Educating Indigenous Students Not Recognized By the U.S. Government*, sheds light on the particular struggles of Indigenous Latine students in California public schools, and presents the novel argument that by contrasting the benefits conferred to federally recognized Indigenous students—Native Americans—to those not conferred to Indigenous Latine students, Indigenous communities in California may come together to serve a collective goal founded in the well-being and survival of their communities: ensuring that their children receive access to a culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate education.

Latina Futures concludes with a transcript of an interview conducted at the symposium: *Fireside Chat: The Life and Legacy of Ambassador Vilma Martínez*. The Editor-in-Chief, Evelyn Sanchez Gonzalez, and Chief Articles Editor, Luz Murillo, had the privilege of interviewing a legal giant: the first female president of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF), and the first female U.S. ambassador to Argentina. Her legal wins in *Plyer v. Doe*, and *Griggs v. Power*, as well as the obstacles she has overcome, urge us to continue living in a legacy of strength and determination to never surrender.



Figure 1: Chicanx-Latinx Law Review Students Aracely Ruvalcaba, Breanna Comunale, Luz Murillo, Evelyn Sanchez Gonzalez, and LPPI Fellow Uriel Saldivar, standing by LPPI Founding Director Sonja Diaz. CLLR extends an enormous thank you to everyone who made this life-changing event possible, including the Symposium Committee and the women who steered it: Belen Flores, Lorena Uriarte, Lila Burgos, and Diaz.



Figure 2: In recognition of Professor Laura Gómez’s contributions to CLLR as advisor, Evelyn Sanchez Gonzalez, and Luz Murillo gifting Professor Laura Gómez a commemorative art piece, funded by LPPI and created by artist Dulce María López.

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