About CLORE

The Center on Latino and Latina Rights and Equality (CLORE) focuses on issues impacting the Latino community in the United States, with the goal of developing progressive strategies for legal reform. The Center seeks to educate lawyers, law students, scholars and the general public on the status of Latinos and Latinas, as well as to advocate for expanded civil rights in the areas that affect the growing Latino population.

Under the leadership of Director Professor Jenny Rivera, CLORE hosts events bringing together scholars, lawyers, and advocates for discussion and strategic planning. CLORE also offers courses that highlight access to the legal system and explore issues affecting the Latino community. CLORE encourages and supports litigation related opportunities, as well as work that increases the involvement of the private bar in matters positively affecting the Latino community.

CLORE has two dynamic projects that focus on full equality under the law: the Language Access Project, which addresses discrimination based on language and Latino national origin and ethnicity, and the Gender Equality Project, which develops legal strategies to eliminate gender-based discrimination and its effects on the Latino community. The Law School’s library will be the repository for CLORE’s Special Collection on Latinos and Latinas and the Law.

For more information, please visit the CLORE webpage, www.law.cuny.edu/clore

To join our mailing list and receive announcements of CLORE events, e-mail clore@mail.law.cuny.edu.


PARTICIPANTS

**Karina Claudio-Betancourt** is a Boricua artist, "embelequera y buscabulla," with a BA in Humanities (UPR-Rio Piedras) and an MA in Performance Studies (NYU). Born and raised in Puerto Rico, she now lives in Brooklyn and works as a community organizer for LGBTQ rights in Bushwick with Make the Road NY/GLOBE. She received a scholarship from the Hispanic Arts Foundation in 2007, a “Performance Studies” Award in 2008, was a Hemispheric Institute EMERGENYC Fellow in 2009 and since working with GLOBE, has received (on behalf of the group), the Brooklyn Lambda Award (May, 2009) and a City Council Proclamation (June, 2009).

**Anjela Jenkins** is the Policy Analyst and Law Students for Reproductive Justice Legal Fellow at National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health. Her research and other work at the NLIRH focuses on analyzing immigration policies that disproportionately affect Latina health, and promoting policies to help eliminate health disparities.

She received her J.D. and M.A. in Government from the University of Texas at Austin in 2011. While in law school, Jenkins was a student in the Human Rights Clinic, as well as a member of the Chicano Hispanic Law Student Association, the Texas International Law Journal, and the Texas Hispanic Journal of Law and Policy. Outside of the law school, Jenkins provided volunteer translation services and U Visa assistance at American Gateways, staffed Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid’s Telephone Access to Justice Project, and served as a pro bono law clerk at Catholic Charities of Central Texas Immigration Legal Services. In recognition of her commitment to public interest law, Jenkins was honored by the William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law as a Public Interest Scholar. Prior to law and graduate school, Jenkins received her B.A. in International Development, International Relations, and Latin American Studies (with a minor in German) from Tulane University (Newcomb College).

**Robert T. Maldonado**, is a partner in Cooper & Dunham LLP, a New York City intellectual property law firm. He has served as the national Chair of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Section of the Hispanic National Bar Association (“HNBA”) for the past two years. The LGBT Section serves the HNBA members and the legal profession by monitoring and advocating on the legal issues affecting the Hispanic LGBT community and by promoting the expertise, advancement, and empowerment of Hispanic LGBT legal professionals. Last year, Maldonado testified before the American Bar Association’s newly-formed Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities on issues affecting LGBT Hispanics in the United States. He also presented on a panel sponsored by Lambda Legal in New York City earlier this year, entitled “Moving Forward: Exploring the Intersections of LGBT Rights and Racial Justice Advocacy,” on ideas and strategies to foster long-term relationships between the racial justice and LGBT rights communities.

**Pedro Julio Serrano**, is a well-known and respected Latino/a LGBT movement leader is the communications manager of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. In 1998, he became the first openly gay and HIV+ political candidate in the history of Puerto Rico to run for office. With studies in communications from the University of Puerto Rico, he worked for the Puerto Rican Health Department and as communications manager for LLEGO. In 1999, he became the political and media director for the Human Rights Foundation of Puerto Rico. Most recently, he worked as Voices of Equality coordinator for Freedom to Marry.

In 2003, Serrano founded Puerto Rico Para Tod@s (Puerto Rico for All), an organization that advocates for LGBT equality and social justice in Puerto Rico. He is the former co-chair of the Board of Directors of Unid@s, the National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Human Rights Organization. Serrano has been a member of many advisory boards, including the Commission Against Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity of the Puerto Rican Bar Association, the Puerto Rican Initiative to Develop Empowerment (PRIDE), the Puerto Rican Civil Rights Commission and the Puerto Rican ACLU chapter. Serrano has been an outspoken advocate for LGBT and human rights, participating in thousands of interviews and public events throughout his 13-year career as a human rights activist. He has received numerous awards for his activism and was grand marshall of the Puerto Rican LGBT Pride Parade of the West in 2009. He has been chosen one of the 25 most influential LGBT Latinos and one of the 5 most promising Puerto Ricans in New York City. He lives by Gandhi’s words: "Be the change that you want to see in the world."
ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Law Section serves the Hispanic National Bar Association members and the profession by monitoring and advocating on the legal issues affecting the Hispanic lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community and by promoting the expertise, advancement, and empowerment of Hispanic LGBT legal professionals. Specifically, this Section is empowered and expected to: highlight the contributions made by Hispanic LGBT legal professionals, increase the awareness among the general HNBA membership of the role of the Hispanic LGBT legal professionals with the goal of securing the continued support of straight HNBA allies, educate the HNBA membership on the legal issues facing the Hispanic LGBT community, serve the Hispanic LGBT community by fostering the participation of the HNBA’s membership in pro bono, mentoring, and other volunteer activities in the LGBT community, advocate justice and equal rights for all members of the Hispanic LGBT community by issuing press releases, filing amicus briefs, and undertaking legislative efforts and other appropriate actions as needed, and help to make the legal profession welcoming and supportive for Hispanic LGBT legal professionals.

Make the Road New York promotes economic justice, equity and opportunity for all New Yorkers through community and electoral organizing, strategic policy advocacy, leadership development, youth and adult education, and high quality legal and support services. Make the Road promotes equal rights and economic and political opportunity for low-income New Yorkers through: community and electoral organizing, leadership development, adult education, youth development, legal and support services, and strategic policy advocacy. Make the Road’s LGBTQ project, Globe, operates in Brooklyn and Queens. In addition to supporting and empowering the LGBTQ community in the outer boroughs and providing a safe space, Globe works with schools in Brooklyn and Queens to address the institutional homophobia that drives students to drop out of school. Globe also fights job discrimination against transgender New Yorkers and promotes community awareness and understanding of LGBTQ discrimination and oppression. Make the Road’s Civil Rights and Economic Power Project challenges discrimination against immigrants who do not speak English and creates a strong voice for low-income and unemployed immigrant workers in the policy-making processes related to the administration of public benefits and health care services in New York State. The Civil Rights and Economic Power Project also leads Make the Road New York’s work to promote a just and comprehensive reform of our nation’s immigration laws.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force builds the political power of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community from the ground up. The Task Force does this by training activists, organizing broad-based campaigns to defeat anti-LGBT referenda and advance pro-LGBT legislation, building the organizational capacity of our movement and generating groundbreaking research through our Policy Institute.

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health’s mission is to ensure the fundamental human right to reproductive health and justice for Latinas, their families and their communities through public education, community mobilization and policy advocacy. Latinas face a unique and complex array of reproductive health and rights issues that are exacerbated by poverty, gender, racial and ethnic discrimination and xenophobia. These circumstances make it especially difficult for Latinas to access reproductive health care services, including the full range of available reproductive health technologies and abortion services. NLIRH believes that in order to substantially improve the reproductive health of Latinas and protect their rights to exercise reproductive freedom, NLIRH must locate reproductive health and rights issues within a broader social justice framework that seeks to bring an end to poverty and discrimination and affirms human dignity and the right to self-determination.

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