



There is no American Agenda  
without the Latino Agenda.



**2019**  
Annual Report

**UCLA** Latino Policy & Politics Initiative





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without the Latino Agenda.

# **2019**

## **Annual Report**

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# OUR MISSION



**UCLA LPPI fosters innovative research, leverages policy-relevant expertise, drives civic engagement, and nurtures a leadership pipeline to propel viable policy reforms that expand opportunity.**

**There is No American Agenda  
Without a Latino Agenda.**

**Sonja Diaz,  
Founding Director**





Every four years, the election cycle puts a temporary spotlight on the Latino community, with expectations and predictions on how the issues and needs of the nation's second largest demographic group will shape electoral outcomes.

While Latinos have the power to determine who will win the White House in November, the real opportunity exists in radically reshaping the political landscape of states and local governments, especially across the Southwest.

The spotlight on Latino voters in 2020 must expand to ensure that Latino issues are front and center because there is no American agenda without a Latino agenda. Leveraging the electoral strength of a winning 2020 coalition through tailored messaging and responsive policy ideas can help restore our fragile democracy and set us on a course for fair redistricting.

Here at the UCLA Latino Politics and Policy Initiative (UCLA LPPI),

we are ready to advance a Latino agenda backed by the prowess of the nation's leading public university.

We are amplifying the leadership of Latino electeds across the country and working with the 2020 election's marquee battleground state, Arizona, to expand opportunity and mobility through responsive governance.

We enter our third year of action with key accomplishments and an ambitious vision for the decade that lays ahead. In the last year, we:

- **Launched a new effort to protect the voting rights of communities of color through the courts and the classroom.**
- **Put a Latino lens on the housing and homelessness crisis in California that inspired legislative action in Sacramento.**
- **Responded to California's physician shortage with evidence-based recommendations to meet the healthcare needs of all residents by creating a diverse primary care workforce in urban and rural communities.**

- **Conducted research on the Trump Administration's racial animus in collaboration with undocumented students that made its way to the Supreme Court in an amicus brief that defends the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.**
- **Trained a new cohort of 17 policy fellows who build our capacity to advocate for and represent the needs of underserved communities.**

In the next year, UCLA LPPI will work to ensure that policymakers and mass media understand the complexity of the Latino community through data and facts.

The UCLA Voting Rights Project, launched this past December, will challenge voter suppression and minority vote dilution under state and federal law. In partnership with the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund we will continue to promote innovative curriculum for cross-jurisdictional legislators from California to Connecticut to support their governance and operationalize opportunity. And our policy experts will examine criminal justice reform, health workforce diversity, the digital economy and the housing crisis centered on the needs of California's plurality and the nation's emerging majority.

With the support of our funders and partners, we want to seize the spotlight that comes with a presidential election to create an accurate Latino narrative that drives action and safeguards a future where everyone has access to opportunity and full dignity. Last year presented unprecedented challenges: more children in government cages, the most violent attack on Latinos on U.S. soil, and racist vitriol from our nation's leaders that threaten our democratic institutions—our courts, our schools, and frankly, our communities. Every four years we hear promises that this will be the year of the Latino. This time around, join us to make it happen.



Sonja Francine Marie Diaz  
Founding Director, UCLA LPPI

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# LATINOS WILL BE THE LARGEST NON-WHITE VOTING BLOC IN THE **2020** ELECTORATE.

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## **Yet, Latinos remain overlooked in critical policy conversations.**

In 2019, UCLA LPPI put a much needed spotlight on the emerging power of Latinos, the challenges they face and why the issues impacting Latino communities require unique policy solutions to build a thriving future for America.

# 2019 IN REVIEW:

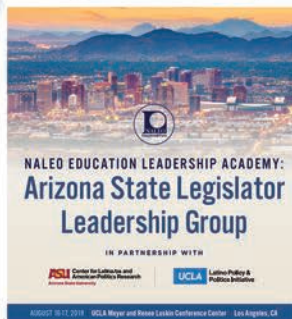
A Year of Resistance and Building Power

FIRST GENERATION

Focus On Our Future

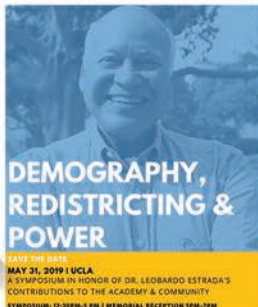


Arizona State Legislature Driving Inclusive Policy



NALEO

REDISTRICTING



Mobilizing for Democracy

# LPPI, BY THE NUMBERS

UCLA LPPI released 7 policy reports on issues like Latino homelessness, the primary care physician shortage, and the aging of a majority-minority nation.

**7**

UCLA LPPI trained 17 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral fellows on how to pursue and champion equitable policy solutions through data and facts.

**17**

UCLA LPPI has had over 3 dozen earned media mentions in papers such as the Washington Post and Los Angeles Times.

**3 DZ**

## LATINA SENATORS

Representation Matters



## PROP 187



Building Power



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# RESEARCH WITH PURPOSE & IMPACT

Driving Inclusive Policy through Data & Facts

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Building on work begun in 2018, UCLA LPPI published a series of four original research and policy reports in partnership with AltaMed Health Services focused on workforce diversity and health access in and beyond California.

UCLA LPPI also highlighted the growing housing challenges Latinos are facing with new research exploring the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles County and the unique systemic issues that Latinos face when confronted with housing insecurity.

**“While the Latino homeless population has continued to grow, it is the least likely out of all ethnic groups to engage with homeless services due to cultural beliefs and challenges with language and immigration status.”**

**- Dr. Melissa Chinchilla,  
UCLA LPPI Expert**



Applied research underscores UCLA LPPI's ability to meaningfully connect data to communities and provide policymakers with evidence-based policy solutions.





# Amplifying Latino Issues

UCLA LPPI's work received extensive media coverage throughout 2019—including widespread coverage of the 2020 election cycle and issues of homelessness, health, representation and democracy. LPPI's work has been covered in:

*The Washington Post*   *Los Angeles Times*



**USA  
TODAY**  
A GANNETT COMPANY

*The Seattle Times*



**UCLA LPPI is using the power of data and rigorous social science research to put a Latino lens on the issues that matter and advance policy solutions that expand opportunity and mobility.**



The background of the entire page is a dark blue color with a white topographic map pattern. The pattern consists of numerous irregular, concentric contour lines that create a sense of depth and texture, resembling a map of a hilly or mountainous region.

# REPRESENTATION MATTERS

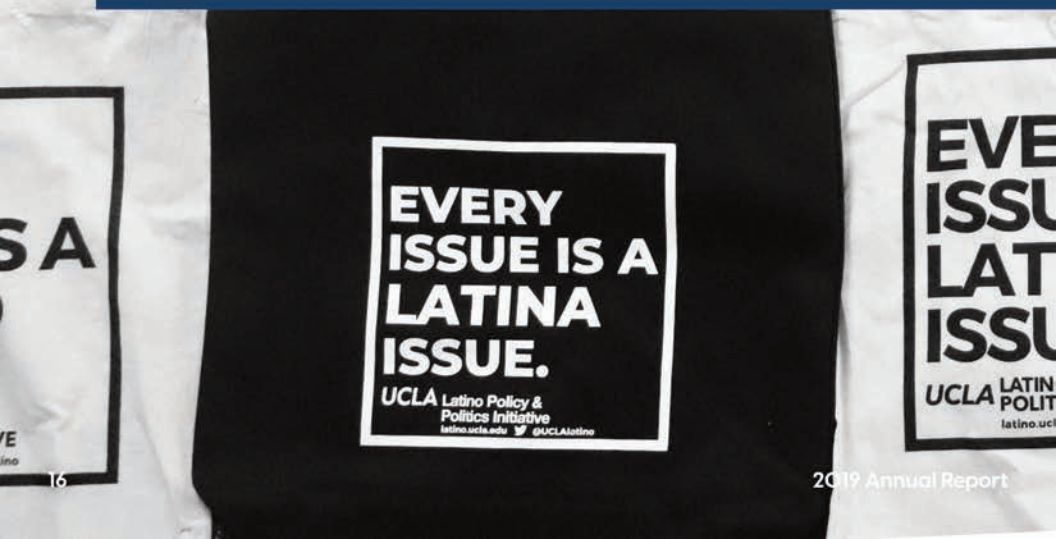
Building Power to Advance Democracy

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Championing the rights of emerging Latino communities, UCLA LPPI is actively engaging key stakeholders to put a Latino lens on voting rights and create the systemic change necessary for an inclusive democracy.



## Empowering Political Leaders

The nexus of political power does not reside within the halls of Congress or the White House, but in state legislatures and city halls, driving policy that impacts the daily lives of people in profound ways.

UCLA LPPI partnered with the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund and Arizona State University's Center on Latina/os and American Politics Research to host a groundbreaking leadership academy for members of the Arizona State Legislature. Over two days, policymakers gained data-driven insight into the needs of Latino communities and how to better engage with them while driving an agenda that creates opportunity for all residents, young and old.



Attorneys who helped file two lawsuits against the city of Yakima over a strong mayor proposal applauded the City Council's decision Tuesday to take the measure off the February ballot.

Lawyers with Columbia Legal Services, the American Civil Liberties Union-Washington and the UCLA Voting Rights Project filed the lawsuits Tuesday on behalf of two Yakima voters. CLS attorney Alfredo Gonzalez Benitez, and Cha...

**"Every attack on the voting rights of any eligible voter must be challenged, whether it comes from local city halls, state legislatures or even the White House."**

**- Dr. Matt Barreto,  
Co-founder, UCLA LPPI**



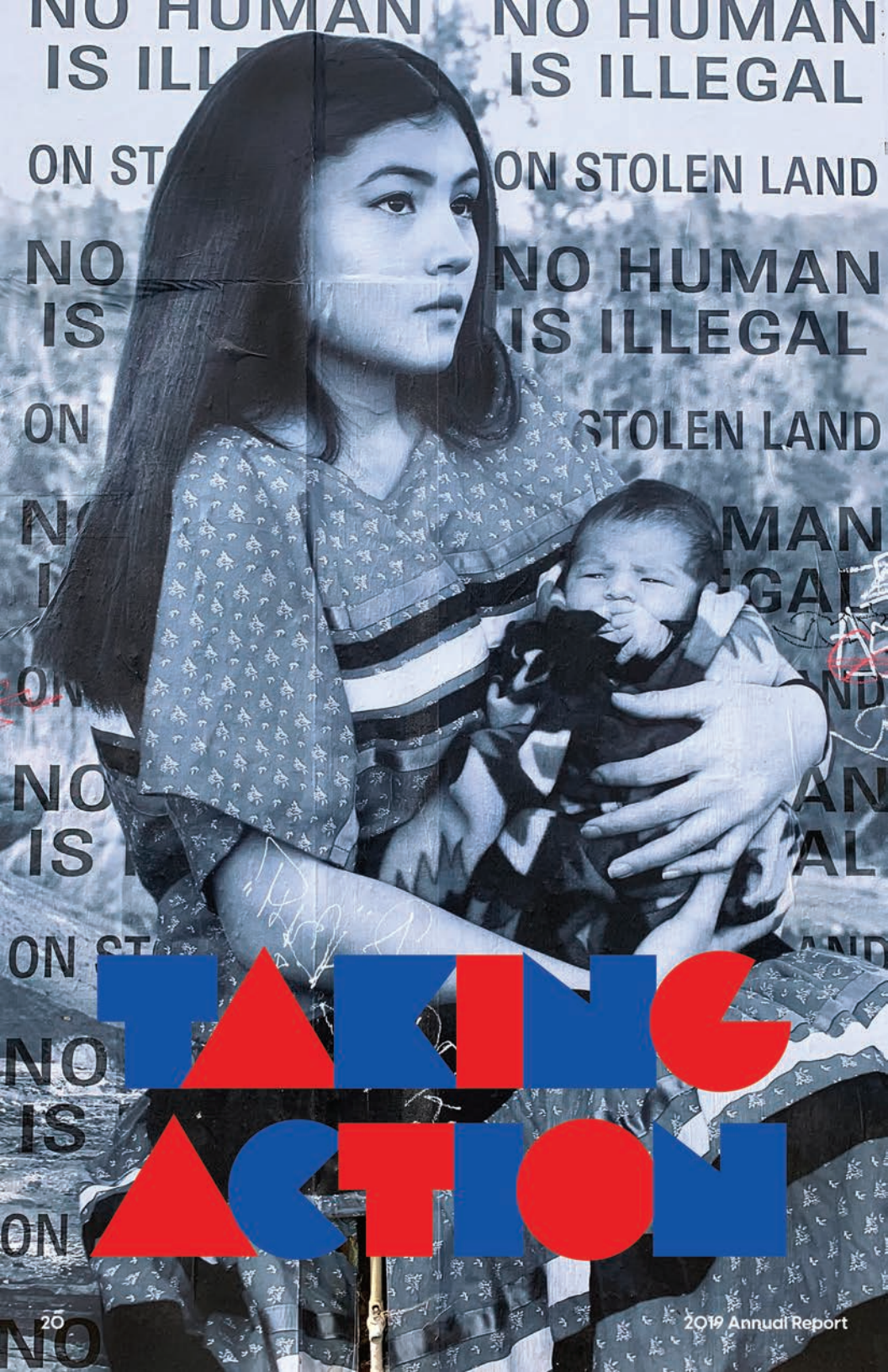
"Along with our partners at Columbia Legal Services, the American Civil Liberties Union-Washington and the UCLA Voting Rights Project filed the lawsuits Tuesday on behalf of two Yakima voters. CLS attorney Alfredo Gonzalez Benitez, and Cha...



## Protecting Voting Rights

UCLA LPPI launched the UCLA Voting Rights Project (VRP) to protect the voting rights of Latinos and other minority voters through impact litigation, research and training the next generation of civil rights attorneys and public advocates.





NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL ON STOLEN LAND

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# TAKING ACTION



## Promoting Democracy

When the Department of Commerce (DOC) decided to add a citizenship question to the 2020 U.S. Census, UCLA LPPI was there to push back against discriminatory actions aimed to silence Latinos and immigrants. California, New York and 16 other states, along with 14 localities successfully sued the DOC. The lawsuits relied heavily on research by UCLA LPPI co-founder Dr. Matt Barreto that found low levels of trust in the government's ability to keep sensitive citizenship information confidential among immigrant communities. And when trust is low, people are less likely to participate in the census. Using this research, U.S. federal courts agreed with plaintiffs that the inclusion of a citizenship question would reduce immigrant participation, jeopardize data collection, and lead to an overall undercount.

## Defending DACA

UCLA LPPI experts are on the frontlines of social science research informing law and policy with renowned experts taking deep data-driven dives to defend the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program and combat restrictive immigration policies. Exploring myriad areas of study from immigration enforcement to linguistics, UCLA LPPI faculty produced data- and narrative-driven research to push back against regressive immigration policies that fail to align with the founding ideals of our democracy. Key outcomes include two amicus briefs, relying upon original research of LPPI faculty, filed in the United States Supreme Court in support of DACA.



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# MOBILIZING FOR DEMOCRACY

Building Community and Power for Change

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**UCLA LPPI is leveraging the convening power of California's leading academic institution to bring together people who can provide insight into past challenges and successes and drive progress for the nation's Latino communities.**



# WE ARE

## A Generation Mobilized

UCLA LPPI joined a coalition of 22 organizations as part of the We Are CA, 25 years Beyond Prop 187 campaign, to highlight the past and present contributions of immigrants to California and underscore the continued need to protect and expand the civil rights of communities of color.





## Latinas Leading the Way

UCLA LPPI brought together five Latina State Senators from Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico to showcase the growing political power of Latinas across the Southwest. Together they fearlessly discussed their paths to elected office and were unapologetic about the policy positions necessary to truly expand opportunity and safeguard democracy in 2020 and beyond.



The panelists and moderator from left: New York Times correspondent Jennifer Medina, Sen. Yvanna Cancela of Nevada, Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez of New Mexico, Sen. Julie Gonzales of Colorado, Sen. María Elena Durazo of California and Sen. Rebecca Rios of Arizona.

## Shifting Politics in a Changing Nation

In Spring 2019, UCLA LPPI hosted two events focused on the substantive political and electoral representation of Latinos.

Inspiring the next generation of Latino leaders was key to the “Power Shift” event, which featured leading Los Angeles political figures. The second event celebrated the life and work of Leo Estrada by examining the intersections of demography, redistricting and the power of mentorship in preparation for the 2020 census and presidential election.

While the first event underscored the strides Latinos have made in ushering in significant Latino representation and fundamentally shifting the political landscape of California, the second event highlighted how redistricting has diluted the minority vote and equitable representation across the country and the opportunity the 2020 Census presents to reverse course.



The panelists and moderator from left: California State Assemblymember Richard Alatorre, Los Angeles City Councilmember Gil Cedillo, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and Sonja Diaz.



# FOCUS ON OUR FUTURE

Developing the Leaders of Tomorrow

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**UCLA LPPI is building sustainability into its advocacy work by training tomorrow's elected officials, civic leaders and community advocates to tackle challenges armed with data and champion policy emboldened by what is possible.**





**Julie Aguilar**



**Michael Applegarth**



**Celina Avalos**



**Adriana Bernal**



**Irma Castañeda**



**Amado Castillo**



**Katie Cruz**



**Diana Garcia**



**Vianney Gomez**



**Nick Gonzalez**



**Maria Morales**



**Carla Vásquez-Noriega**



**Jessie Hernández-Reyes**



**Bryanna Ruiz**



**Julio Mendez Vargas**

## LPPI Featured Fellows

### Gabriela Solis MPP, MSW 2019

"While at LPPI, I was granted the space and opportunities needed to grow into a multifaceted professional with the ability to advocate, analyze, and strategize for the future of our community."

Gabriela is currently a Government Innovation Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab



### Daisy Vazquez Vera PhD Candidate, Political Science

"LPPI has impacted my academic endeavors by providing me with opportunities to apply my research skills and expertise to impact policy-oriented goals."

Daisy is an American Political Science Association Minority Fellowship recipient and Ford Foundation predoctoral fellow.





The image features a composite background. The top-left portion shows the stars and stripes of the United States flag. The rest of the image is a vibrant Mexican serape blanket with horizontal stripes in red, blue, green, orange, and yellow. The text 'MAKING IT ALL POSSIBLE' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font. A thin white horizontal line is positioned above the word 'MAKING' and another below 'POSSIBLE'.

# **MAKING IT ALL POSSIBLE**

**UCLA LPPI could not maintain its ambitious research and advocacy portfolio without the generous support of our institutional and philanthropic partners and individual donors. We are grateful to all of our partners that enable us to promote policy solutions that improve the lives of Latinos and other communities of color across the country.**

## Advisory Board Members

### **Erica Bernal**

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NALEO Educational Fund

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President,  
Gassó Capital Markets

### **Max Espinoza**

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Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

UCLA LPPI welcomes our inaugural Advisory Board. Each board member brings a breadth of expertise from their leadership in advocacy, banking, health care, law, philanthropy, public service, and media. We are fortunate for their strategic counsel and stewardship of Latino issues.

### **Alfred Fraijo Jr.**

Partner,  
Sheppard Mullin

### **Sergio Garcia-Rodriguez**

Senior C-Suite Executive  
and Attorney

### **Alicia Miñana de Lovelace**

CEO,  
Law Offices of Alicia Miñana

### **Michele Siqueiros**

President,  
The Campaign for College  
Opportunity

### **Peter Villegas**

Vice President and Head  
of Latin Affairs, Coca-Cola  
North America

### **Joe Waz**

Senior Strategic Advisor to  
Comcast Corporation, and  
Senior Counselor,  
Creative Content Protection,  
for NBC Universal



## **Partner Organizations**

Alianza of Youth Justice  
ASU Center for Latina/os and American Politics Research  
California Latino Legislative Caucus  
California Medicine  
The Greenlining Institute  
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
NALEO Educational Fund  
The Aspen Institute Latinos & Society Program  
We Are CA, Somos CA

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Public Welfare Foundation & the Alianza of Youth Justice  
Ramon Murguia  
Southern California Gas Company  
The California Community Foundation  
The California Wellness Foundation  
The Coca-Cola Company  
UCLA Division of Social Sciences  
UCLA Interdisciplinary and Cross Campus Affairs  
UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs



# UCLA LPPI Policy Experts

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Immigrant Rights | Labor & Employment |  
Mobility & Opportunity

**Amada Armenta**

Criminal Justice | Immigrant Rights

**Amy Ritterbusch**

Mobility & Opportunity

**Arturo Vargas Bustamante**

Health Access | Mobility & Opportunity

**Carlos Santos**

Civic Engagement | Mobility & Opportunity

**Cecilia Menjivar**

Immigrant Rights

**Chon A. Noriega**

Arts & Culture | Representation

**Chris Zepeda-Millán**

Civic Engagement | Immigrant Rights

**Daniel Solórzano**

Education

**David Hayes-Bautista**

Health Access | Mobility & Opportunity

**Efrén Pérez**

Democracy | Public Opinion

**Eric Avila**

Environment | Urban Policy

**Fernando Torres-Gil**

Aging | Demography | Health Access

**Gary Segura**

Democracy | Public Opinion

**Genevieve Carpio**

Mobility & Opportunity | Urban Policy

**Jennifer M. Chacón**

Civil Rights | Criminal Justice |  
Immigrant Rights

**Juan Herrera**

Urban Policy

**Kelly Lytle-Hernandez**

Criminal Justice | Immigrant Rights

With nearly three dozen faculty experts on Latinos from across UCLA's College and Professional Schools, UCLA LPPI is an enterprise-wide home for Latino-focused policy analysis and civic engagement, that is unmatched among U.S. research universities.

**Laura E. Gómez**

Civil Rights

**Laura E. Martinez**

Health Access

**Leisy Abrego**

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**Lorena Guillén**

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**Natalie Masuoka**

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