

Celebrating the Career of Laura E. Gómez

Rachel F. Moran Endowed Chair in Law



Friday March 15, 2024 UCLA School of Law









On behalf of the Critical Race Studies Program, I am delighted to welcome you to our symposium celebrating the groundbreaking career of our esteemed colleague and dear friend, Laura E. Gómez, the Rachel F. Moran Endowed Chair in Law at UCLA. While we mourn the fact that her retirement entails the loss of Laura's regular presence in our building, we are so grateful for the enduring legacy she leaves.

You will read in these pages and hear during this symposium of her over two decades of service to our institution, her integral role in the founding of our program, as well as the vast influence and reach of her scholarship and teaching. But it would be impossible to fully capture the lasting impact she has had. Her career contains many historic "firsts,"

but she has fought hard to ensure that those firsts will not be "onlys." Her fierce advocacy on behalf of others (sometimes publicly and sometimes quietly and unrecognized), her mentorship and fostering of emerging scholars, her commitment to her colleagues and students – Laura has not only opened doors but has striven to ensure they remain open, throwing down ladders behind her.

We look forward to the conversations we will have today, as we honor Laura E. Gómez and her tremendous contributions to our program, to UCLA School of Law and the broader university, and to legal and academic communities at large. Thank you for joining us.

Jasleen Kohli Executive Director

Critical Race Studies Program, UCLA School of Law







Laura E. Gómez

Laura E. Gómez is the Rachel F. Moran Endowed Chair in Law at UCLA, where she also holds faculty appointments in the Departments of Sociology and Chicana/Chicano & Central American Studies. Gómez received her B.A. from Harvard College in 1986. There she majored in Social Studies, a selective major in which she was the first Latina/o ever admitted and wrote a magna cum laude senior thesis on how a generation of "Chicano" politicians became "Hispanic." At Harvard, she chaired the La Raza Student Association for two years and was an editor of The Harvard Crimson, the daily student newspaper, and a Truman Scholar. After college, Gómez spent a year working as a legislative aide to U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman, a first-term Democrat from New Mexico, the highlight of which was sitting with Bingaman in the well of the Senate as he successfully offered an amendment she had drafted to the bill sanctioning the South African apartheid regime, which eventually was enacted over President Reagan's veto. After five long winters on the east coast, she chose to attend Stanford University for her legal and graduate studies, becoming the first Mexican American woman to obtain both a J.D. and a Ph.D. As a law student, she chaired the Stanford Latino Law Students Association and the Coalition for a Diversified Faculty. As a Ph.D. student, she held a National Science Foundation Minority Graduate Fellowship.

After obtaining her J.D. in 1992, Gómez clerked on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for the Honorable Dorothy Wright Nelson (UCLA J.D. '53; former USC dean), a 13-month experience that to this day remains a highlight of her professional life. While working with Judge Nelson, she applied for tenure-track law teaching jobs, receiving invitations to interview at a dozen top-20 law schools. When, to Judge Nelson's chagrin, Gómez had not heard from UCLA, the Judge told her she was going to see UCLA Dean of the Law School Susan Westerberg Prager that evening and insisted that she would ask why UCLA had not responded to her letter of interest. UCLA called the next day, launching Gómez's career in the legal academy in 1993. Dean Prager worked out a generous one-year fellowship, allowing her to complete her PhD dissertation in sociology, providing her an office at the law school, and delaying the start of her tenure clock until 1994. Gómez remains the only Latina tenured at UCLA Law (in 2000) and only the second Latina tenured at a top-20 law school in the nation (after Rachel F. Moran at Berkeley in the late 1980s).

In 2000, in the wake of the passage of Proposition 209 and the sharp drop in the enrollment of African American and Latinx law students, Gómez and several colleagues--Devon W. Carbado, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Cheryl I. Harris, and Jerry Kang among them--founded UCLA's Critical Race Studies Program. CRS was the first program to formally incorporate Critical Race Theory into a sequence of legal education dedicated to training future generations of racial justice advocates. Gómez and Kang were the program's first co-directors (2000-2002), and she later served as faculty director for another three years (2018-2021).

Gómez made the decision to leave UCLA for the University of New Mexico in 2005 to raise her young son amidst their extended family in Albuquerque. At UNM, she became the first professor with a joint appointment between the School of Law and the College of Arts & Sciences, holding a one-quarter appointment in the American Studies Department and a three-quarter appointment at the law school. She served as Associate Dean for Faculty Development at the law school, and she co-founded the Institute for the Study of "Race" and Social Justice with Dr. Nancy López. She was elected President of the Law and Society Association in 2009, becoming the first person of color and the youngest person to lead the multi-disciplinary scholarly association. In 2011, UCLA's mix of students, colleagues across campus and especially in CRS drew Gómez back to Westwood, where she served as the law school's Vice Dean for Faculty (2013-2015). In 2016, she was appointed Interim Dean of UCLA's Division of Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Science, overseeing 15 academic units with nearly 300 tenured/tenure-track faculty.





Gómez has published many law review articles, articles in peer-reviewed journals, and book chapters, but her four books have been among her most impactful pieces of scholarship. She published her first book in 1997 as part of Temple University Press's Gender, Family and the Law Series--Misconceiving Mothers: Legislators, Prosecutors, and the Politics of Prenatal Drug Exposure, an empirically grounded analysis of the racist and sexist claims-making that led to the "crack baby" panic of the late 1980s as part of the war on drugs. In 2013, she and sociologist Nancy López published Mapping "Race": Critical Approaches to Health Disparities Research as part of Rutgers University Press's Critical Issues in Health and Medicine Series. The volume resulted from a National Institutes of Health grant, and Gómez authored the opening chapter, "Taking the Social Construction of Race Seriously in Health Disparities Research."

Gómez is best known for two books on which this symposium focuses--Manifest Destinies: The Making of the Mexican American Race and Inventing Latinos: A New Story of American Racism--that have made her a leading scholarly voice on the sociology of race, Latinos, and the law. Manifest Destinies was first published in 2007 by New York University Press and in 2018 released in a Second Edition. The book at once offers a revisionist history of the standard story of "westward expansion" that instead centers colonialism and racial conflict as well as a legal and sociological theory of race and race-making that centers Mexican Americans. Inventing Latinos was published by The New Press and named one of NPR's Best Books of 2020. In some senses a sequel to Manifest Destinies, it spans centuries and continents to connect diverse Latinx communities as forming—whether they like it or not—a new, cognizable racial group with the census first-ever count of Latinos in 1980.

Over more than two decades, Gómez has taught thousands of UCLA Law students in courses including Criminal Law, Civil Procedure, Critical Race Theory, Latinas/os and the Law, Law and Society, and Comparative Racialization. In recent years, she has served as faculty advisor to the Latinx Law Students Association, the UCLA Chicanx-Latinx Law Review, and the Womxn of Color Collective. Her current community service includes MALDEF's board of directors and the scholarly advisory committee of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Latino. In addition to her law students, Gómez has informally mentored hundreds of graduate students, sociologists, and legal scholars, a disproportionate share of whom have been members of under-represented communities.

In 2022, she was recognized as an inaugural member of the UCLA Mentoring Honor Society for her support of tenure-track faculty on campus. In the same year, she received the Clyde Ferguson Jr. Award from the Minority Groups Section of the American Association of Law Schools. She was a co-Principal Investigator for a decade on a National Science Foundation funded Law and Inequality Doctoral Fellowship jointly sponsored by the Law and Society Association and the American Bar Foundation. She was an Associate Editor of the Law & Society Review and has served as a peer reviewer for many other journals across diverse disciplinary and inter-disciplinary fields. She has served on the National Science Foundation Committee of Visitors for the Division of Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences, and on the panel and as a reviewer for the Law and Social Science Program. Gómez has held prestigious residential fellowships at the Stanford Humanities Center and at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe. Gómez was elected to the American Law Institute in 2017. The Fellows of the American Bar Foundation recognized her with the 2021 Outstanding Scholar Award (whose prior recipients include U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and UCLA colleagues Richard Abel and Kimberlé Crenshaw).





Celebrating the Career of Laura E. Gómez,

Rachel F. Moran Endowed Chair in Law, UCLA

Friday, March 15, 2024

3:00 to 3:30pm WELCOME

Michael Waterstone | Dean and Professor of Law, UCLA School of Law

Cheryl I. Harris | Vice Dean for Community, Equality, and Justice and Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Professor in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, UCLA School of Law

Uriel Saldivar Esteban (J.D. candidate '25) | UCLA Latinx Law Students Association Community Service Chair

3:30 to 4:30pm Panel I: Teaching and Learning from Manifest Destinies: The Making of the Mexican American Race

In Manifest Destinies: The Making of the Mexican American Race, published in 2007 and republished in a Second Edition in 2018, Laura E. Gómez argues that nineteenth-century American history should be reconceived to link American colonialism in the Southwest with slavery in the South to tell a more complete story of how racial hierarchy maintains itself. A centerpiece of her argument is that "race" is socially constructed and that law in all its forms plays a crucial role shaping inter-group race relations and racial oppression. UCLA Law emeritus professor Gerald P. López said of the book, "The particulars of nineteenth-century New Mexico illuminate everything from Donald Trump's White nationalism to Barack Obama's record-shattering deportation numbers. Gómez manages, at once, to explore subtle variations and contradictions within racial categories without obscuring the murderous hate at the heart of racism that sill defines life in the United States." This panel features scholars and practitioners who reflect on the book's continuing legacy.

MODERATOR:

Jerry Kang | Distinguished Professor of Law and (by courtesy) Asian American Studies; Founding Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (2015-20), UCLA

Genevieve Carpio | Associate Professor, César E. Chávez Department of Chicana/o & Central American Studies, UCLA

Nicholas Espíritu (J.D. '04) | Deputy Legal Director, National Immigration Law Center **Casandra D. Salgado** (Ph.D. '19) | Assistant Professor, Sociology, Arizona State University

4:30 to 4:45pm Break

4:45 to 5:45pm Panel II: Exploring the Implications of Inventing Latinos: A New Story of American Racism

In *Inventing Latinos: A New Story of American Racism*, published in 2020 and in paperback in 2022, Laura E. Gómez argues that only recently have Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Dominicans, Central Americans, and others seen themselves and been seen by others under the banner of a shared racial identity. The catalyst for this emergent identity has been multi-faceted, including the federal government's decision to count "Hispanics" in the 1980 census and the ferocity of anti-Latinx racism centered around undocumented immigrants. Ohio State University law professor César Cuauhtémoc García Hernández said of the book, "Gómez reveals that history is not past. Instead, she shows us that as racism evolves, the U.S. commitment to racism remains steady, creating, but never quite controlling Latinos as a distinct racial group. But if racism's allure continues to tug powerfully at some segments of the United States, Inventing Latinos reveals that creative resistance is never far away." This panel features scholars and practitioners who reflect on the book's implications.

MODERATOR:

Aslı Ü. Bâli | Professor of Law, Yale Law School

Walter R. Allen | Distinguished Professor of Education, Sociology, and African American Studies; Allan Murray Cartter Chair in Higher Education, UCLA School of Education & Information Studies

Sherene H. Razack | Distinguished Professor and Penny Kanner Endowed Chair, Gender Studies, UCLA **Saúl Sarabia** (J.D. '96) | Academic Coordinator, UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment

5:45 to 6:30pm Keynote

Professor Laura E. Gómez | Rachel F. Moran Endowed Chair in Law, UCLA

INTRODUCTION:

Devon W. Carbado | The Honorable Harry Pregerson Professor of Law, UCLA

6:30 to 8:30pm Reception, Shapiro Courtyard

REMARKS:

LaToya Baldwin Clark | Professor of Law and Faculty Director, Critical Race Studies Program, UCLA School of Law

Jasleen Kohli | Executive Director, Critical Race Studies Program, UCLA School of Law

Alicia Miñana de Lovelace (J.D. '87) | Chair, UCLA Foundation Board of Directors

Participant Biographies

Walter R. Allen is the Allan Murray Cartter Professor of Higher Education at UCLA and Distinguished Professor of Education, Sociology, and African American Studies. Allen grew up under Jim Crow racial segregation in Kansas City, Missouri and earned his Ph.D. and M.A. degrees from the University of Chicago in Sociology, and a B.A. in Sociology from Beloit College. He came to UCLA in 1988, where he studies race, ethnicity, gender, and class disparities.

Allen serves as the Co-Director for the UCLA Center for Capacity Building, which helps low resource universities strengthen research, teaching, operations, and public service. He also leads the longitudinal study CHOICES which studies the college attendance of African American and Latinx students. Allen's more than 250 publications include: Mitigating Inequality: Research, Policy and Practice in an Era of Massification and Stratification; As the World Turns: Global Higher Education; Towards a Brighter Tomorrow: College Barriers, Hopes and Plans of Black, Latino/a and Asian American Students in California; Till Victory is Won: The African American Struggle for Higher Education in California; Higher Education in a Global Society: Achieving Diversity, Equity and Excellence; Enacting Diverse Learning Environments: Improving the Climate for Racial/Ethnic Diversity in Higher Education; College in Black and White: African American Students in Predominantly White and Historically Black Public Universities; and The Colorline and the Quality of Life in America.

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LaToya Baldwin Clark is a UCLA Professor of Law and current Faculty Director of the Critical Race Studies program. Previously, Baldwin Clark was an Earl B. Dickerson Fellow and Lecturer in Law at University of Chicago Law School. She writes and teaches about education law, family law, property law, and race and discrimination. Baldwin Clark clerked for the Honorable Claudia Wilken of the Northern District of California, and for the Honorable Goodwin Liu of the California Supreme Court. She holds a B.S. in Economics cum laude from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, an M.A. in Criminology from the University of Pennsylvania, and earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from Stanford University and her J.D. from Stanford Law School. Baldwin Clark's scholarship has

appeared or will appear in the Yale Law Journal, the Virginia Law Review, the Columbia Law Review, the Northwestern Law Review, the University of Chicago Law Review, and the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review, among others.

Aslı ü. Bâli is Professor of Law at Yale Law School where she teaches International Law, International Human Rights Law, and Third World Approaches to International Law. Previously, she was a professor at UCLA School of Law where she was the Founding Faculty Director of the Promise Institute for Human Rights, Director of the UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies, and a core faculty member of the Critical Race Studies program. Bâli currently serves as the President of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA). Her research focuses on two broad areas: public international law—including human rights and humanitarian law—and comparative constitutional law, with a focus on the Middle East. Her scholarship has appeared in numerous law and peer-reviewed social science journals including the American

Journal of International Law Unbound, Chicago Journal of International Law, Cornell International Law Journal, International Journal of Constitutional Law, University of Chicago Law Review, Geopolitics, Law & Social Inquiry, Theory & Event, UCLA Law Review, Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law, Virginia Journal of International Law and Yale Journal of International Law, among others. Bâli is co-editor of two volumes addressing different facets of institutional design and comparative constitutional law from Cambridge University Press. She co-chairs the Advisory Council for the Middle East and North Africa Division of Human Rights Watch and serves as a non-resident fellow of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.



Devon W. Carbado is the Honorable Harry Pregerson Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law and the former Associate Vice Chancellor of BruinX for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. He teaches Constitutional Criminal Procedure, Constitutional Law, Critical Race Theory, and Criminal Adjudication. Carbado has won numerous teaching awards, including Professor of the Year, elected by the UCLA School of Law classes of 2000 and 2006, the Law School's Rutter Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2003, and the University's Eby Art of Teaching Distinguished Teaching Award in 2007.

Carbado writes in the areas of employment discrimination, criminal procedure, implicit bias, constitutional law, and critical race theory. His scholarship appears in law reviews at UCLA, Berkeley, Harvard, Michigan, Cornell, and Yale, among other venues. He is the author of Unreasonable: Black Lives, Police Power, and the Fourth Amendment (The New Press), Acting

White? Rethinking Race in "Post-Racial" America (Oxford University Press, with Mitu Gulati) and the editor of several volumes, including Critical Race Judgments: Rewritten U.S. Court Opinions on Race and the Law (Cambridge University Press; with Bennett Capers, R. A. Lenhardt, and Angela Onwuachi-Willig), Race Law Stories (Foundation Press, with Rachel Moran), The Long Walk to Freedom: Runaway Slave Narratives (Beacon Press, with Donald Weise), and Time on Two Crosses: The Collective Writings of Bayard Rustin (Cleis Press, with Donald Weise).

Genevieve Carpio is Associate Professor of Chicana/o and Central American Studies at UCLA, where she works on questions related to relational racial formation, the urban humanities, and 20th century U.S. history. She has published in American Quarterly, Journal of American History, and Journal of Urban Affairs, among other venues. Carpio is author of Collisions at the Crossroads: How Place and Mobility Make Race (University of California Press, 2019), which received the Sally and Ken Owen's book award from the Western Historical Association and was a finalist for the National Association of Chicano and Chicana Studies book prize. Her in-progress book project, Pacific Imaginaries: Architecture, Movement, and Race Making from California to New Zealand, 1914-1945, builds

on her first book's focus on the history of racial hierarchies and regional development to examine cultural exchange between California and the Pacific World. An article drawn from this project earned the Western History Association's Michael P. Malone Award for the best article on state history in North America. She holds a Ph.D. in American Studies and Ethnicity, an M.A. in Urban Planning, and a graduate certificate in Historic Preservation.



Nicholas Espíritu (J.D. '04) is a civil rights attorney with the National Immigration Law Center and a Lecturer at UCLA School of Law where he has taught Voting Rights and an Immigration Policy Clinic. His legal career has included challenges to President Trump's travel ban targeting immigrants from predominantly Muslim countries and Arizona's anti-Latino and anti-immigrant law SB 1070. Espíritu was part of the legal team that advised undocumented youth in their push for the executive action that later became the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and defended that program against legal challenges by various states. Before joining NILC, Espíritu was attorney with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where his focus

was on voting rights, including challenges to state redistricting plans that diluted Latino voting strength, efforts to impose voter identification requirements, and efforts to exclude noncitizens from legislative apportionment. Espíritu's research focuses on the intersection of Critical Race Theory, individual substantive rights claims, constitutional structure, and immigration law to address questions of the relation of rights claims, equality, participation, and democratic legitimacy for marginalized communities, be they noncitizens or racial minorities.



Cheryl I. Harris is the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation Chair in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Vice Dean for Community, Equality, and Justice at UCLA School of Law where she teaches Constitutional Law, Civil Rights, Employment Discrimination, Critical Race Theory, and Race Conscious Remedies. A graduate of Wellesley College and Northwestern School of Law, Harris began her teaching career in 1990 at Chicago-Kent College of Law after working for one of Chicago's leading criminal defense firms and later serving as a senior legal advisor in the City Attorney's office as part of the reform administration of Chicago Mayor Harold Washington. The interconnections between racial theory, civil rights practice, politics, and human rights have been important

to her work. Harris was a key organizer of several major conferences that helped establish a dialogue between U.S. legal scholars and South African lawyers during the development of South Africa's first democratic constitution. This work played a significant role in the production of her acclaimed and influential article, "Whiteness as Property" (Harvard Law Review). Since joining the UCLA Law faculty in 1998, Harris has continued to produce groundbreaking scholarship in the field of Critical Race Theory. She is one of the founding faculty members of the Critical Race Studies Program and has served as its Faculty Director or Co-Director for ten of its 24 years.



Jerry Kang is a Distinguished Professor of Law at UCLA. He graduated magna cum laude from both Harvard College (physics) and Harvard Law School, where he was a supervising editor of the Harvard Law Review. After clerking for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, he started his professorship at UCLA in 1995. A leading scholar on implicit bias and critical race studies, Professor Kang collaborates broadly across disciplines and industries on scholarly, educational, and advocacy projects. An inspiring teacher, he has received UCLA's highest recognition: the Eby Art of Teaching Distinguished Teaching Award. From 2015 to 2020, he served as the University's Founding

Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. He is also among the founding faculty members of the Critical Race Studies Program and, along with Laura E. Gómez, served as Faculty Co-Director in its first years.

Jasleen Kohli is the Executive Director of the Critical Race Studies Program at UCLA School of Law. She has practiced in the areas of civil rights, labor law, and policy development, and co-teaches Community Lawyering and Low Wage Worker Organizing, a course drawing on her interests and background in law and organizing, social movement lawyering, and the intersection of racial and economic justice. Before joining UCLA in 2012, Kohli was policy analyst for the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), a leading advocacy organization promoting sustainable economic development. At LAANE, Kohli developed and advocated for innovative policies designed to address social inequality in the city's lowest wage sectors. Prior to her position at LAANE, Kohli was the

first in-house counsel at UNITE HERE Local 11, the union representing hotel and food service workers. Kohli received her J.D. from Harvard Law School and her B.A. from UC Berkeley with Highest Honors in English Literature, with an emphasis in postcolonial theory. While at Harvard Law, she served as a student attorney at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, representing low-income clients in family law matters, and co-directed and produced a highly regarded documentary, under the supervision of the late Lani Guinier, on issues of race and legal pedagogy entitled Legally Black and Brown and Yellow and Red.



Alicia Miñana de Lovelace (J.D. '87) has spent the past 30 years as a transactional attorney in Los Angeles and has invested heavily and broadly of her time and resources in many facets of the local and national community. As a practicing attorney licensed in California, Miñana de Lovelace works in the formation and dissolution of corporations, limited liability corporations, partnerships and joint ventures, low-income housing, employment law, licensing, production, distribution and management agreements with artists, managers and recording labels. She has also worked with the National Labor Relations Board and various national and international law firms.

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Miñana de Lovelace graduated from Princeton University in 1984 with an A.B. degree in Biology. She received her J.D. degree from UCLA School of Law in 1987 and continues to be involved with both universities. She serves as the Chair of the UCLA Foundation Board and has also served in other capacities at UCLA, including: the Advisory Boards and Centennial Campaign Committees of both the Law School and the School of Education and Information Studies; the search committees for the Dean's search for the Law School and for the School of Education and Information Studies; President of the Law School's La Raza Law Alumni Association; and fundraising and selecting the recipients of the Cesar Chavez Summer Law Fellowship. Miñana de Lovelace was recognized as the Law School's Alumni of the Year for Public and Community Service Award in 2013.



Sherene H. Razack is a Distinguished Professor and the Penny Kanner Endowed Chair in Gender Studies. She is an interdisciplinary critical race and feminist scholar whose work engages several fields including Sociology, Legal Studies, Gender Studies, Ethnic Studies, American Studies, and Political Science. With a central focus on racial violence, she explores how imperialism, colonialism, capitalism, and patriarchy interlock to produce and sustain a racially structured world where racialized populations are marked as disposable and subjected to an unrelenting violence. Her books and publications examine settler colonialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, and global white supremacy with a particular focus on the gendered effects of anti-Indigenous, anti-Black, anti-Asian and anti-Muslim racism as they operate in law.

Her two most recent books are: Nothing Has to Make Sense: Upholding White Supremacy Through Anti-Muslim Racism (2022) and Dying from Improvement: Inquests and Inquiries into Indigenous Deaths in Custody (2015).

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Casandra D. Salgado is an Assistant Professor of Sociology in the School of Social and Family Dynamics at Arizona State University in Tempe. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from UCLA and B.A. in Peace and Conflict Studies from UC Berkeley. Her current book manuscript, Colonial Legacies: Mexican Americans, Identity and Race, focuses on how local narratives about race and residing in a Latino-majority context shapes Latinos' perceptions of whether they belong to a devalued category in Albuquerque, New Mexico. These findings have important implications for understanding Latinos' membership in a racialized, not minoritized, category in the United States. Salgado's other work examines how place and generational status shape Latino's educational experiences, wealth attainment,

identity formation, and racial worldviews. This work has been published in the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Race and Social Problems, Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Sociological Inquiry, and Social Problems.



Uriel Saldivar Esteban (J.D. Candidate '25) is the UCLA Latinx Law Students Association Community Service Chair. Saldivar is the son of immigrants and the first in his family to attend college. Growing up in a mixed-status family and working alongside farmworkers in the California Central Valley, he became passionate about understanding how laws create inequality of opportunity. After working in Sacramento spearheading legislative campaigns for Assemblymember Bonta and the Community Water Center, he enrolled at UCLA School of Law to become a better advocate alongside marginalized communities. During law school, Saldivar has worked with Best, Best, & Krieger, the Latino Policy and Politics Institute, and UNITE HERE Local 11. After law school, Saldivar will return to and

serve his Central Valley community by working at the intersection of labor and policy.



Saúl Sarabia (J.D. '96) leads the Labor and Decarceration Initiative at the UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment and serves as the Director of Solidarity Consulting. Since graduating from UCLA School of Law, Sarabia has focused on supporting social movement building in Los Angeles County as a community organizer, teacher, and technical expert in base building and community based social justice advocacy. Sarabia accompanies residents from stigmatized groups and college students from all backgrounds to develop leaders committed to cross-racial solidarity and anti-subordination. Currently, Sarabia focuses on the social movement to abolish youth incarceration in Los Angeles County. In 2018, he served as Chair of the Los Angeles County Probation Reform and

Implementation Team which erected the country's only civilian oversight body over a Probation Department. At UCLA, he brings together former correctional staff and former detainees in California's youth incarceration system to inform the transition from youth incarceration to community healing in L.A. County. Sarabia served as the first Administrative Director of the Critical Race Studies Program at UCLA from 2005 to 2011.



Michael Waterstone is Dean of UCLA School of Law. Prior to coming to UCLA Law, Waterstone was the Dean of LMU Loyola Law School and Senior Vice President of Loyola Marymount University. Dean Waterstone is a nationally recognized expert in disability and civil rights law. Throughout his legal career, Waterstone consulted on projects for the National Council on Disability and testified before the United States Senate on issues related to voters with disabilities and older voters. Internationally, he worked with foreign governments, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions on disability rights laws in Israel, Japan, China, Bangladesh, Ireland, and Vietnam. He has published articles in the Harvard Law Review, Emory Law Review, Notre Dame Law Review,

Minnesota Law Review, Duke Law Journal, Vanderbilt Law Review, William and Mary Law Review, and Northwestern Law Review, among others.

Dean Waterstone has been a visiting professor at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis; University of Haifa, Faculty of Law; and Northwestern University School of Law, where he was selected as the Outstanding First Year Professor in 2014-2015. Dean Waterstone began his teaching career at the University of Mississippi Law School. Before entering teaching, Dean Waterstone worked as a litigation associate at Munger, Tolles, & Olson, LLP, in Los Angeles. Waterstone also clerked for the Honorable Richard S. Arnold on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.





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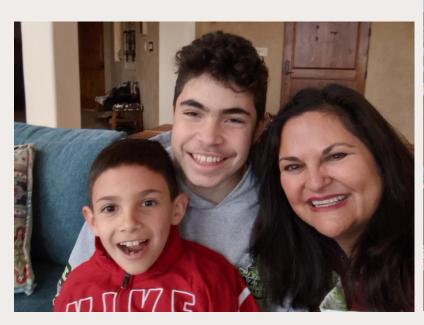


























THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF

Laura E. Gómez

Rachel F. Moran Endowed Chair in Law!

Please support the work that the Critical Race Studies Program does to host important programming on urgent issues, train the next generation of racial justice advocates, leaders, and scholars, and continue challenging injustice in all its forms.

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