

**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 11, 2019**

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AALRR to Host 2nd Annual Civil Rights Conference

Thomas Saenz, MALDEF President and General Counsel, to Keynote; Sylvia Mendez, Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipient, to Deliver Special Remarks

AALRR will host its 2nd Annual Civil Rights Conference, “A Shared Commitment to Equity and Inclusion,” at the Anaheim Marriott on September 12 and 13, 2019.

During this two-day, groundbreaking conference, leaders and experts in the fields of civil rights and constitutional law will provide key information, legal guidance, and practical tools for California’s school districts, community colleges, universities, and other public agencies to comply with federal and state anti-discrimination laws and constitutional protections. This year, Thomas Saenz, President and General Counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) will serve as the conference keynote speaker. Sylvia Mendez, Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipient and Civil Rights Activist, along with Eugene Whitlock Assistant Vice Chancellor-HR, Chief Human Resources Officer, UC Berkeley, will deliver special and opening remarks, respectively.

Conference participants will include Title IX Coordinators, EEO Compliance Officers, Human Resources Professionals, EEO Compliance Officers, charter school leaders, legal counsel, EEO Compliance Officers, and other public entity leaders and policy-makers charged with the responsibility of complying with our civil rights laws. Representatives of a broad coalition of organizations focused on advancing equity in the classroom and the workplace will also be in attendance.

The conference will include breakout and plenary sessions focused on issues of national and local civil rights importance, such as Title IX, the rights of undocumented students, the 2020 Census, protections for LGBTQ students, First Amendment rights and hate speech, advancing equity in discipline, and equitable hiring practices.

A full agenda is available at <http://aalrr.com>.

WHAT: AALRR’s 2nd Annual Civil Rights Conference
WHERE: Anaheim Marriott, 700 West Convention Way, Anaheim, California 92802
WHEN: 8:30 a.m. Thursday, September 12 –
12:00 p.m., Friday, September 13, 2019

Civil Rights/Education Leaders and Other Stakeholders confirmed to participate include:

- **Sylvia Mendez**, Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipient and Civil Rights Activist (Special Remarks)
- **Thomas Saenz**, President and General Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) (Keynote)
- **Eugene Whitlock**, Assistant Vice Chancellor-HR, Chief Human Resources Officer, UC Berkeley (Opening Remarks)
- **John Adams**, Chief of Campus Police, Santa Monica College Police Department
- **Branden Butler**, Assistant Deputy Director of Education and Outreach, Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH)
- **Sonja Diaz, Esq.**, Founding Director, UCLA's Latino Policy & Politics Initiative
- **Lizette Escobedo**, Census Director, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO)
- **Laura Faer**, Deputy Attorney General, Bureau of Children's Justice Section, California Department of Justice
- **Audrey Dow**, Senior Vice President, The Campaign for College Opportunity
- **Dr. Amy Enomoto-Perez**, Former Superintendent, Rosemead School District
- **Mónica García**, Member, LAUSD Board (District 2)
- **Amanda Goad**, Audrey Irmas Director of the LGBTQ, Gender & Reproductive Justice Project, ACLU of Southern California
- **Brendan Hamme**, Staff Attorney, ACLU of Southern California
- **Martin Hanneman**, Security and Technology Professional
- **Julie Kossick**, District Director Human Resources, North Orange County Community College District
- **Christine Lovely**, Associate Vice Chancellor, Chief Human Resources Officer, UC Davis
- **Jennie McCue**, Director of Marketing and Communications, Saddleback College
- **Davis "Dave" Nighswonger**, Chief of Police, Southwestern College
- **Gary Orfield**, Ph.D., Co-Director, The Civil Rights Project at UCLA
- **Luis Perez**, Legal Services Director, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
- **Miliana Singh**, Health Care and Transgender Services Coordinator LGBT Center, Orange County
- **Ryan Smith**, Chief External Officer, Partnership for Los Angeles Schools
- **Michael Tuitasi**, Vice President, Student Services, Santa Monica College
- **Karen Tumlin**, Director and Founder, Justice Action Center

AALRR Civil Rights Conference Committee Members/Panelists include: Irma Rodríguez Moisa, Partner, Elizabeth Zamora-Mejia, Partner, Gabriel Sandoval, Partner, Sharon J. Ormond, Partner, Atkinson, Deborah U. Ettinger, Partner, Aaron V. O'Donnell, Partner, Meredith E. Brown, Partner, Eve P. Fichtner, Partner, Stephen M. McLoughlin, Senior Counsel, Scott D. Danforth, Senior Associate, Brooke E. Jimenez, Senior Associate, Gabrielle E. Ortiz, Associate, AALRR.

AALRR 2ND ANNUAL CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, September 12, 2019:

8:30 a.m.: Welcome, introductions, and Keynote Speaker Eugene Whitlock, Assistant Vice Chancellor-HR, Chief Human Resources Officer, UC Berkeley

10:15 a.m.: Morning Breakout Sessions:

- I Am Who I Am: The Impact of Tattoos, Piercings, Gender Identity, and Hairstyles in the Workplace and on School Campuses
- Hate Speech v. Free Speech: Where and How Can Campuses Draw the Line?
- Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline: Affirmative Steps for School Districts to Take to Address Inequity in School Discipline

11:45 a.m.: Lunch Keynote Speaker Thomas Saenz, MALDEF President and General Counsel/Los Angeles County Office of Education Board Member

1:30 p.m.: Afternoon Breakout Sessions:

- ADA/FEHA Best Practices: Addressing and Accommodating Mental Health Conditions
- Technology's Impact on Civil Rights: Capitalizing on Its Benefits While Protecting the Rights of Your Campus Community
- Together as One: Promoting and Reaping the Benefits of Diversity through Equitable Recruitment and Hiring Practices

3:00 p.m.: Reception

Friday, September 13, 2019

8:30 a.m.: Morning Breakout Sessions

- Protecting the Rights of the LGBTQ Community: Advancing a Safe Discrimination-Free Environment for Employees and Students
- #NotHere: Title IX and Responding to Inappropriate Sexual Behavior on Campus
- Fairness for All: Protecting the Rights of Undocumented Students

10:15 a.m.: Special Remarks by Sylvia Mendez, Presidential Medal of Freedom Recipient/Civil Rights Activist

10:45 a.m. Plenary Session: The 2020 Census: Why is it a Critical Civil Rights Issue?

- **Sonja Diaz**, Founding Director, UCLA's Latino Policy & Politics Initiative

- **Lizette Escobedo**, Census Director, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO)
- **Gary Orfield, Ph.D.**, Co-Director, The Civil Rights Project at UCLA
- **Mignonne Pollard, Ed.D.**, Schools and Education Outreach Sector Manager, California Complete Count-Census 2020

12:00 p.m.: Closing Remarks

About Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

AALRR is a full-service California law firm, established in 1979, that serves as a trusted advisor to more than 7,000 public and private sector clients, including cities, counties, special districts, K-12 school districts, county offices of education, community college districts, and universities throughout the state. The firm has also achieved both national and statewide recognition for its longstanding commitment to hiring and retaining attorneys who reflect the communities our clients serve. For example, the firm was honored in October 2017 with the California Minority Counsel Program's prestigious Drucilla Stender Ramey Majority-Owned Law Firm Award, which is given annually to a law firm demonstrating the strongest commitment to diversity and inclusion. In August 2017, Law360 recognized AALRR as the best firm for its size in the country for minority attorneys and for minority equity partners. In May 2016, Law360 ranked AALRR as the second best law firm in the country for minority equity partners and the ninth best in the country for minority attorneys in general.

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