

News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Gabriel Sandoval Named Pahara-Aspen Education Fellow**

*Two-year fellowship focuses on advancing a quality public education for all*

*Cerritos, Calif.*—Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR) is pleased to announce that Gabriel Sandoval, a partner in AALRR’s statewide education law practice group, has been named as a Pahara-Aspen Education Fellow. The Pahara-Aspen Education Fellowship is a two-year, cohort-based program that identifies innovative leaders in the educational excellence and equity movement, facilitates their dynamic growth, and strengthens their collective efforts to dramatically improve public schools, especially for low-income children and communities.

Over the course of the next two years, Mr. Sandoval will participate in a cohort of Fellows consisting of 24 men and women who will participate in four advanced leadership seminars, focused on leadership, diversity, and important issues in public education and social change. The cohort will also complete a leadership project and attend various alumni events.

Mr. Sandoval has an extensive background focused on improving educational opportunities and creating equity among students of all backgrounds. Prior to joining AALRR, he served in President Barack Obama’s administration as Senior Counsel in the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Education—the largest office of the federal government focused exclusively on ensuring that students are not discriminated against based on race, color, national origin, sex, or disability. As part of OCR’s key management team, Mr. Sandoval worked with the Assistant Secretary and other senior staff in managing all aspects of complex, statewide civil rights investigations and compliance reviews, which resulted in resolution agreements positively affecting thousands of students across the nation, including English Learners.

While in the Obama Administration, Mr. Sandoval also served as Senior Advisor and Director of Policy at the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics (the “Initiative”). As a member of the Initiative’s senior leadership team, Mr. Sandoval was responsible for advancing the President’s Executive Order 13555, the purpose of which is to expand and improve the educational opportunities and outcomes for Latinos in our nation’s schools from cradle to career.

“Creating equity in the classroom is a central goal for our clients,” remarked James Baca, AALRR Education Law Practice Chair. “We are delighted at Gabriel’s deserved recognition by the Pahara and Aspen Institutes as a leader in this critically important area of education law.”

Upon completion of their seminars, fellows will become part of the Aspen Global Leadership Network, which now includes nearly 1600 entrepreneurial leaders from 45 countries who share a commitment to enlightened leadership and to using their extraordinary creativity, energy, and resources to tackle the foremost societal challenges of our times.

**About Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo**

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