

## Ernest Israel Herrera

### EDUCATION

- University of New Mexico School of Law, Juris Doctor: May 2012.
- Columbia University, Columbia College, Bachelor of Arts.: May 2009, Kluge Foundation Scholar.

### LICENSURE

- State Bar of New Mexico, admitted September 25, 2012.
- State Bar of Texas, admitted April 30, 2015

### EMPLOYMENT AND WORK EXPERIENCE

**Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)**, San Antonio, Texas (August 2013- Present)—Staff Attorney

- Five years of experience in impact litigation of voting rights, educational equality, and immigrants' rights issues.
- Second-chair litigation experience in successful redistricting lawsuits against the State of Texas and Pasadena, Texas, the first jurisdiction to be forced by court to have its voting law changes precleared by the Department of Justice after the 2013 *Shelby County, Ala. v. Holder* Supreme Court decision.
- One of the team of four MALDEF attorneys that successfully defeated Texas's efforts to end DACA in 2018. I prepared witnesses, including one expert witness, for deposition, and conducted depositions of expert and lay witnesses.
- Lead and second-chair counsel experience in the *Martinez v. New Mexico* education lawsuit in which MALDEF secured a judgment that requires repair of the entire public school education system, which the court declared unconstitutionally inadequate.
- Responsibilities include community and legislative advocacy of voting rights, education, employment, and immigrants' rights issues, including organizing legislative agenda in New Mexico.

**District Attorney's Office, Thirteenth Judicial District, New Mexico** (February 2013-August 2013)—Associate District Attorney

- As an Associate District Attorney, prosecuted more than 10 domestic violence cases successfully in Cibola County, New Mexico.
- As a first-year attorney, received a felony case docket after 5 months of working at the DA's office.

**Community Lawyering Clinic, University of New Mexico School of Law** (January 2012 - May 2012)

- Represented indigent clients in family, immigration, and immigration asylum matters.
- Coordinated outreach to underserved communities in Albuquerque regarding these areas of law.

**New Mexico Public Defender**, Albuquerque Office (Summer 2010; Spring 2011; Fall 2011)

- Worked as an intern under Assistant Public Defenders Barry Porter and Sergio Viscoli. Drafted motions, performed legal research, and assisted with witness interviews.

**Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc.**, San Antonio Main Office (May 2011 – August 2011)

- Worked as a summer law clerk with attorneys on immigration, unemployment, and housing cases.

### LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Fluent in Spanish.