

**THOMAS ANDREW SAENZ**



Employment

**Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Los Angeles**

*President and General Counsel:* 8/09-present

Lead national non-profit civil rights legal organization in all aspects of program (litigation, policy advocacy, community education, communications/media), development, administration, finance, and human resources. Represent organization and/or clients in litigation hearings/arguments, legislative testimony, and public presentations.

**Office of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles**

*Counsel to the Mayor:* 8/05-8/09

Served on Mayor's four-member executive team; provided legal and policy advice; oversaw commission appointments; provided mayoral oversight of specific departments; served as chief ethics officer; served as mayoral designee to claims board; participated in design of mayoral plan to implement educational governance change; led strategic planning in area of opportunity and inclusion.

**Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Los Angeles**

*Vice President of Litigation:* 6/01-7/05

Managed and supervised litigation staff nationwide in pursuing civil rights litigation in organization's five program areas: education, employment, immigrants' rights, political access, and public resource equity; devised and implemented strategic plan for litigation department; oversaw and conducted civil rights litigation in multiple jurisdictions; served as organization's lead counsel in numerous cases; served as member of organization's management team; appeared frequently as speaker before community and school groups.

*National Senior Counsel:* 11/00-5/01

Drafted and oversaw design and initial implementation of strategic plan for litigation to expand Latino access to higher education; oversaw and conducted civil rights litigation; served as organization's lead counsel in numerous cases.

*Regional Counsel:* 2/96-11/00

Managed and supervised office serving southern California, Arizona, and Nevada; oversaw and conducted civil rights litigation, appeals, pre-litigation investigations, consent decree monitoring, and administrative advocacy; served as organization's lead counsel in numerous cases.

*Staff Attorney:* 10/93-1/96

Participated in litigation, pre-litigation investigations, and policy advocacy.

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### Employment (continued)

Hon. Stephen Reinhardt, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Los Angeles  
*Law Clerk* 9/92-9/93

Hon. Harry L. Hupp, United States District Court, Los Angeles  
*Law Clerk* 9/91-9/92

### Education

**Yale Law School**, J.D., June 1991

Honors: Coker Fellow (Teaching Assistant to Prof. Ruth Wedgwood), 1990  
C. LaRue Munson Prize (clinical work), 1991  
Potter Stewart Prize (moot court), Spring 1991  
Finalist, Caskey/Gallagher Prizes (mock trial), 1990  
Finalist, Stone Prize (moot court), Spring 1991

**Yale College**, B.A., *summa cum laude*, May 1987

Majors: History; Economics and Political Science  
Honors: Distinction in History Major  
Distinction in Economics and Political Science Major  
Phi Beta Kappa

### Community Involvement / Other Professional Activities

*Member, Los Angeles County Board of Education*, 12/01-6/21; *President*, 7/05-6/06, 7/10-6/11, 7/15-6/16 and 7/18-6/19 (seven-member appointed body sets policy and oversees budget of nation's largest county office of education; adjudicates expulsion and transfer appeals).

*Member, Board of Directors, California Community Foundation*, 6/15-present.

*Member, Oversight Board of the Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles County*, 5/12-present (seven-member body oversees dissolution of agency properties).

*Vice Chair, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights*, 2013-present.

*Chair, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda*, 4/18-4/21.

*Board of Advisors, TheDREAM.us*, 12/13-6/20.

*Member, California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning*, 7/13-8/14 (appointed by Chief Justice and Supt. of Public Instruction to report and recommend on civics education).

*Member, Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations*, 6/01-7/05; *President*, 7/04-6/05 (15-member appointed body that directs county human relations staff).

*Member, Equity and Excellence Commission, U.S. Department of Education*, 2/11-2/13 (27-member commission examining and recommending on education disparities).

*Board of Directors, Campaign for College Opportunity*, 9/09-present.

Community Involvement / Other Professional Activities (continued)

*Board of Advisors, The Impact Fund*, 2007-present.  
*Board of Directors, Western Justice Center*, 2014-2019.  
*Adjunct Lecturer, University of Southern California Law School*, 1998-2005 (co-taught 3-unit course in Civil Rights Litigation in spring semester).  
*Fellow, National Assembly (6/08) and West Coast Assembly (2/07), The American Assembly, Next Generation Project: U.S. Global Policy and the Future of International Institutions.*  
*Board of Directors, Los Angeles Region, National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ)*, 1999-2005; *Executive Committee*, 2001-2005.  
*Board of Directors, Alliance for Children's Rights*, 2003-2010.  
*Board of Directors, ENCOMPASS*, 2005-2014; *President*, 1/06-12/09.  
*Charter Member, Pacific Council on International Policy*, 1998-2008; *Next Generation Advisory Group*, 2001-04 (Group Chair, 5/03-4/04).  
*Lawyer Representative, Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference*, 1999-2001; *Lawyer Representative Alternate*, 1998.  
*Advisor, Ninth Circuit Task Force on Racial, Religious & Ethnic Fairness*, 1994-96.  
*Legal Advisor - Civil Rights, California LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens)*, 1999-2004 (served as appointed adviser to state officers on civil rights issues).  
**Central L.A. / San Gabriel Valley Yale Alumni Schools Committees**, 1987-88, 1991-2001 (coordinated and conducted recruiting/interviewing of local applicants to Yale College).

Fellowships

**Ambassadors Within**, California Community Foundation, 2003 (42-member inaugural class of young leaders of greater Los Angeles studying community change).  
**American Marshall Memorial Fellowship**, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, 10/99 - 11/99 (16-member pilot delegation of young leaders on three-week study and discussion program in Europe).  
**Next Generation Leadership Fellowship**, The Rockefeller Foundation, 9/00-9/01 (24-member cohort studying collaboration and democracy).  
**Remarque Forum**, Remarque Institute (NYU), 6/03 and 2/04 (invited participant in U.S.- Europe young professionals' discussion forum in Orsundsbro, Sweden and follow-up workshop in Sejny, Poland on future and margins of West).

Selected Honors and Awards

**Champion of Justice**, Western Justice Center, 2014.  
**Spirit of Excellence Award**, American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession, 2013.  
**Cesar E. Chavez Legacy Award**, Cesar Chavez Foundation, 2013.

Selected Honors and Awards (continued)

**Dr. Martin Luther King / Cesar Chavez Social Justice Award**, Rainbow PUSH and Citizenship Education Fund, 2013.  
**Impact Award**, National Hispanic Media Coalition, 2012.  
**Community Corazon Award for Leadership**, Univision Communications Inc., 2010.  
**Benito Juarez Attorney of the Year**, Mexican American Bar Association of Los Angeles County, 2010.  
**Progressive Leadership Award**, Equal Justice Society, 2009.  
**Social Justice Award**, ACLU Foundation of Southern California, 2009.  
**Peace and Justice Award**, Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California, 2007.  
**Honoree, Annual Evening of Art**, The HeArt Project, 2007.  
**Public Service Award**, Latino Law Students Association of Yale Law School, 2007.  
**Reconocimiento Ohtli**, Instituto de los Mexicanos en el Exterior / Hispanic National Bar Association, 2006.  
**Professional Achievement Award**, Mexican American Bar Foundation, 2006.  
**Jack Berman Award of Achievement for Distinguished Service to the Profession and the Public**, State Bar of California / California Young Lawyers Association, 2000.  
**Civil Rights Award**, Sindicato de Jornaleros (Day Laborers Union of Los Angeles), 1999.

Selected Publications

Thomas A. Saenz, "*Recollections of the Legal Battle Against Proposition 187*," 53 U.C. Davis L. Rev. 2021 (2020).

Thomas A. Saenz, "United States v. Texas: *A Brief Discussion of a Briefer (Non-) Decision*," 32 Civil Rights Litigation and Attorney Fees Annual Handbook 19 (S. Saltzman, ed.) (Thomson Reuters 2016).

Thomas A. Saenz, "*One Advocate's Road Map to a Civil Rights Law for the Next Half Century: Lessons from the Latino Civil Rights Experience*," 38 N.Y.U. Rev. L. & Soc. Change 607 (2014).

Thomas A. Saenz, "Fisher v. University of Texas: *Fatal in Expectation, But Feeble in Effect?*," 29 Civil Rights Litigation and Attorney Fees Annual Handbook 315 (S. Saltzman, ed.) (Thomson Reuters 2013).

"*From Emma Lazarus to Arizona SB 1070, Can Progressives Meet New Challenges to Immigrants Rights?*," 31 Chicana/o-Latina/o L. Rev. 47 (2012) (one of five panelists in transcribed discussion).

Thomas A. Saenz, "*A New Nullification: Arizona's S.B. 1070 Triggers a National Constitutional Crisis*," 21 Berkeley La Raza L.J. 5 (2011).

Selected Publications (continued)

Thomas A. Saenz, "Image-Based Hiring: Does the Pursuit of a 'Look' Justify Discrimination," 35 The Brief (ABA), Fall 2005, at 28.

Thomas A. Saenz, "Mendez and the Legacy of Brown: A Latino Civil Rights Lawyer's Assessment," in Symposium, Rekindling the Spirit of *Brown v. Board of Education*, 6 Afr.-Am. L. & Pol'y Rev. 194; 11 Asian L.J. 276; 15 Berkeley La Raza L.J. 67; 19 Berkeley Women's L.J. 395; Calif. L. Rev. (2004).

"A Symposium on Proposition 187" (one of four speakers in transcribed debate), 23 W. St. U. L. Rev. 38 (1995).

Bar Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit  
U.S. Dist. Ct., Northern Dist. of Cal.  
U.S. Dist. Ct., Eastern Dist. of Cal.

California Supreme Court  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit  
U.S. Dist. Ct., Central Dist. of Cal.  
U.S. Dist. Ct., Southern Dist. of Cal.

Significant Cases / Amicus Briefs

- Gregorio T. v. Wilson*, Case Nos. CV 94-7652 (C.D. Cal.), 95-55186, 98-55687 (9th Cir.) (co-lead counsel) (facial challenge to California's Proposition 187).
- Wilson v. City of San Jose*, Case Nos. C 95-0633 (N.D. Cal.), CV 95-3925 (C.D. Cal.), 95-56565 (9th Cir.) (lead counsel) (defense of declaratory relief action regarding Proposition 187).
- Cano v. Davis*, Case Nos. 01-8477 (C.D. Cal.) (three-judge court), 02-577 (S. Ct.) (co-lead counsel) (challenge to California congressional and state senate district lines).
- Gonzalez v. Abercrombie & Fitch Stores, Inc.*, Case No. C 03-2817 (N.D. Cal.) (co-lead counsel) (nationwide class action challenge to discrimination in employment practices).
- Clementina Doe v. Wilson*, Case Nos. C 97-2427 (N.D. Cal.), 98-15194 (9th Cir.) (lead counsel) (Tenth Amendment challenge to key provision of federal welfare reform act).
- Comite de Jornaleros de Redondo Beach v. City of Redondo Beach*, Case Nos. CV 04-9396 (C.D. Cal.), 06-55750 (9th Cir.), 11-760 (S. Ct.) (co-lead counsel) (en banc decision on First Amendment challenge to anti-solicitation ordinance targeted at day laborers).
- Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles v. Burke*, Case No. CV 98-4863 (C.D. Cal.) (lead counsel) (First Amendment challenge to anti-solicitation ordinance targeted at day laborers).
- John Doe v. Holcomb*, Case Nos. 17-1756 (7th Cir.), 17-1637 (S. Ct.) (co-lead counsel) (challenge on behalf of transgender immigrant to Indiana law restricting legal change of name to U.S. citizens).

Significant Cases / Amicus Briefs (continued)

- La Raza Centro Legal v. City and County of San Francisco*, Case No. C 03-1265 (N.D. Cal.) (lead counsel) (challenge to retaliatory denial of government contract).
- Hernandez v. City of Los Angeles*, Case Nos. CV 98-0675 (C.D. Cal.), 99-56453 (9th Cir.) (lead counsel) (Title VII challenge to non-promotion of high-ranking police officer).
- Diana Doe v. Los Angeles Unified School District*, Case No. CV 98-6154 (C.D. Cal.) (lead counsel) (challenge to district implementation of Proposition 227).
- Valeria G. v. Wilson / Angel V. v. Davis*, Case Nos. C 98-2252 (N.D. Cal.), 01-15219 (9th Cir.) (co-lead counsel) (facial challenge to Proposition 227).
- Proyecto Pastoral v. County of Los Angeles*, Case Nos. CV 98-832 (C.D. Cal.), 00-55955 (9th Cir.) (lead counsel) (Title VI challenge to distribution of anti-gang funds).
- Ruiz v. City of Santa Maria*, Case No. CV 92-4879 (C.D. Cal.) (second chair at trial) (Voting Rights Act challenge to at-large city council elections).
- United States v. Texas*, Case No. 15-674 (S.Ct.) (oral argument) (argument on behalf of intervenor-respondents in support of legality of Deferred Action for Parents of Americans initiative).
- Arizonans for Official English v. Arizona*, Case No. 95-974 (S. Ct.) (lead drafter) (MALDEF amicus brief arguing initiative proponents' lack of standing to appeal).
- Piscataway Twp. Bd. of Educ. v. Taxman*, Case No. 96-679 (S. Ct.) (lead drafter) (MALDEF amicus brief urging reversal of decision holding affirmative action program unlawful).
- Grutter v. Bollinger*, Case No. 02-241 (S. Ct.) (lead drafter) (Latino organizations' amicus brief supporting necessity and legality of affirmative action in admissions).