

**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

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| U.S. Supreme Court                     | California Supreme Court               |
| U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit | U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit  |
| U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit   | U.S. Dist. Ct., Central Dist. of Cal.  |
| U.S. Dist. Ct., Northern Dist. of Cal. | U.S. Dist. Ct., Southern Dist. of Cal. |
| U.S. Dist. Ct., Eastern 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).