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Over the last fifty years, the *Chicanx-Latinx Law Review* (*CLLR*) has provided an essential forum for the discussion of issues affecting the Latinx community, and other marginalized communities, that mainstream law journals continue to ignore. In publishing Volume One, *CLLR* introduced to the nation the first legal journal that recognized how common law, statutes, legislative policy, and political propositions impact the Latinx community. The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, Nevada Supreme Court, and New Jersey Superior Court have cited *CLLR*.

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FOREWORD

Editor-in-Chief, Jennifer Báez

Volume 41 is published at a moment of heightened legal and institutional scrutiny. Across the United States and beyond, rapid shifts in law and policy continue to shape the lives of Latinx and immigrant communities in profound ways. Courts, legislatures, and administrative agencies increasingly serve as the sites where fundamental questions of belonging, participation, and protection are contested. In this environment, legal scholarship bears a particular responsibility: to illuminate how law operates in practice, whose interests it serves, and whose experiences remain marginalized.

The articles in this volume respond to that responsibility. As readers engage with these pieces, we invite them to consider their perspective in today's world. Santa-Ramirez's personal narrative for instance, offers insight into the realities undocumented students continue to face. Each contribution addresses issues that are not only timely but enduring in their significance.

Luis Avila's *The Latino Electorate* addresses the structural conditions that influence political participation among Latino communities in Texas, focusing on voting access, civic engagement, and institutional responsiveness. Avila's analysis draws attention to how legal rules and administrative practices affect participation in democratic processes. His work reinforces the principle that meaningful engagement depends not only on formal rights, but also on access, and inclusion within legal and governmental systems.

Yvette Borja and Jorge E. Cuéllar's "*El Oro No Se Toma, El Agua, Sí*": *Environmental Defense and the Task of Transnational Solidarity Among the Salvadoran Diaspora* examines the use of law as a mechanism of executive overreach in El Salvador. Centering on the prosecution of the Santa Marta Five, the authors show how legal process itself can be used to intimidate community leaders opposing mining. The article highlights the sustained presence of community supporters and the growing dissent within segments of the U.S.-based Salvadoran diaspora.

In *Latinx Heritage Preservation: Challenges, Successes, and Solutions*, Alán Díaz-Santana examines the preservation of Texas Latinx

history through legal and policy barriers. By analyzing federal and state preservation frameworks that prioritize Spanish colonial narratives while marginalizing broader Latinx histories and evaluates initiatives such as the National Park Service's Latino Heritage Theme Study and Texas Historical Commission programs. Díaz-Santana concludes by proposing solutions and reforms that can better preserve Latinx heritage.

Stephen Santa-Ramirez's personal narrative, "*No, I Can't Leave Political Conversations at the Door*": *From a Mixed-Status Household to Undocumented College Student Advocacy*, situates immigration and human rights within the everyday realities of undocumented and mixed-status families. This contribution underscores how frameworks governing immigration and higher education extend beyond the legal realm, shaping identity, access, and opportunity. At a time when institutions of higher education face increasing scrutiny over whom they serve and how they do so, Santa-Ramirez's work calls for those in higher education to educate themselves to best support undocumented scholars.

Volume 41 concludes with *It's Not Us, It's Them: Advancing Your Career Despite Decision-Makers' Struggle to Recognize Latina Potential* by Nubia Willman. In this piece, Willman examines the persistent gap between Latina talent and institutional advancement drawing from both personal experience and structural analysis. Willman offers a practical framework for navigating and overcoming professional stagnation by posing critical questions and providing guidance for career advancement despite systemic barriers.

Collectively, these contributions examine various legal, policy and institutional mechanisms affecting Latinx Communities. With that, UCLA School of Law's *Chicanx-Latinx Law Review (CLLR)* proudly presents *Volume 41*.

CONTENTS

ARTICLES

THE LATINO ELECTORATE: SHAPING TEXAS POLITICS

Armand J. Avila 1

“EL ORO NO SE TOMA, EL AGUA, SI:” ENVIRONMENTAL
DEFENSE AND THE TASK OF TRANSNATIONAL SOLIDARITY
AMONG THE SALVADORAN DIASPORA

Yvette Borja & Jorge E. Cuéllar 23

LATINX HERITAGE PRESERVATION: CHALLENGES, SUCCESSES, AND
SOLUTIONS

Alán Díaz-Santana 31

“NO, I CAN’T LEAVE POLITICAL CONVERSATIONS AT THE DOOR”:
FROM A MIXED-STATUS HOUSEHOLD TO UNDOCUMENTED
COLLEGE STUDENT ADVOCACY

Stephen Santa-Ramirez, PhD 69

IT’S NOT US, IT’S THEM: ADVANCING YOUR CAREER DESPITE
DECISION-MAKERS’ STRUGGLE TO RECOGNIZE LATINA POTENTIAL

Nubia Willman 73

