

UCLA

Chicana/o Latina/o Law Review

Title

Foreword

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6rz048dr>

Journal

Chicana/o Latina/o Law Review, 14(1)

ISSN

1061-8899

Author

Salas-Mendoza, Maria A.

Publication Date

1994

DOI

10.5070/C7141021019

Copyright Information

Copyright 1994 by the author(s). All rights reserved unless otherwise indicated. Contact the author(s) for any necessary permissions. Learn more at <https://escholarship.org/terms>

FOREWORD

In just over twenty years of publication, the *Chicano-Latino Law Review* has undergone many changes, most in recognition of the changing faces, interests and priorities of the staff members of the *Review*. These changes have occurred because of—and sometimes despite—our acknowledgment that this journal must also represent the diverse nature of the Chicano/Latino community.

Yet some things do not seem to change. Every year at least one member of the staff will propose that our name be changed; each year we ask ourselves whether the organization can or should do more (in the law school and larger community) than publish our annual issue; and each year we receive at least one submission that prompts discussion over why we must (or not) publish articles that conform to traditional norms of what constitutes “law review quality material,” how to fulfill our obligation to recognize Latino scholarship, and still publish issues that will interest our readership. These questions are extremely important to us; our small but significant struggle as a publication is simply to continue publishing an issue of which we can be proud.

Admittedly, some years the aforementioned issues do not seem to have made a difference in the resulting publication and most years the exploration of these issues are not explicitly visible in our *Review*. To that end, this foreword seeks to discuss some of our considerations in the coordination of the twentieth anniversary conference and the subsequent publication of this issue.

The brainstorming sessions about the conference led to the identification of not very surprising subject areas to be addressed: education, environmental issues, immigration, voting rights, politics, diversity, race relations, and language rights. The next step was that members of the 1992-93 board then offered and solicited suggestions for speakers to be invited to the conference; the result was that those individuals invited were in some way known by those six board members. Three to four months prior to the conference, after many of those invited had accepted our invitation, we realized that certain perspectives might not be addressed by the confirmed speakers. At that time we attempted to invite speakers whose ideas might be different and would, in fact, help us make the conference inclusive of the various perspectives—political and otherwise—of the diverse Latino community at-large. In the end, the lack of personal connections and the timing of our invitations made the confirmation of these speakers impossible.

In putting the issue together, several considerations were made. First, we wanted to organize the issue so that the topics and the speakers on those topics would be easily discernible. Thus, the issue is divided into seven sections each containing either articles or speeches, or both. Secondly, articles or longer speeches are placed at the beginning of each section. Sometimes the sections have different sub-topics, such as the Bilingual Education and Language Rights section. In these sections, the sub-topics are grouped and the same priority is given to articles or longer speeches within each topic. Finally, the pieces were arranged alphabetically where the prior considerations were inapplicable.

The organization may seem irrelevant to some (if not most) of our readers and authors. At the same time, because we have reasons for the organization and we are sure that some will question the placement of certain pieces, we feel it is necessary to explain the compilation of the issue.

While the exclusion of certain Latino perspectives was clearly an oversight on our part, we think that the commentaries included in this issue make clear that the recognition of a diverse Latino community is not overlooked. Moreover, it is our hope that our readers will understand the limitations of a group of students trying to organize a conference that would be interesting to all members of our community—high school and college students, teachers, lawyers and academics.

We certainly enjoyed hosting the conference. We hope you will enjoy this issue and trust that we will continue to publish the *Review* keeping in mind our responsibility to provide quality scholarship (sometimes conforming to traditional norms of publication and sometimes not), challenging dialogue, and articles which represent a growing and changing Chicano-Latino community.

MARIA A. SALAS-MENDOZA