



For Immediate Release

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Equal Rights Center Appoints Immigrant Rights Program Manager and Coordinator

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 11, 2011– The Equal Rights Center (ERC)—a national non-profit civil rights organization—announced the appointment of a new Immigrant Rights Program Manager, Adriana López, and Immigrant Rights Program Coordinator, Stephanie Gonzalez.

“The Equal Rights Center’s Immigrant Rights Program has done amazing work in the community and we are incredibly proud to have two outstanding advocates leading this program,” said the ERC’s Executive Director, Don Kahl. “Adriana and Stephanie both have demonstrated a strong passion for advancing the civil rights of immigrants and I am confident they will take this program to an even greater level of success.”

López and Gonzalez will lead the ERC’s efforts to end discrimination and advance civil rights for immigrant communities in D.C., and across the nation. Furthering the ERC’s mission through a multifaceted approach, they will be responsible for developing and coordinating education and outreach initiatives, designing and coordinating research, investigations, and testing.

“Since joining the ERC, I have been inspired by the impact the organization has made in the community. I am honored and excited to lead the ERC’s Immigrant Rights work to improve the lives and civil rights of immigrants across the country,” said Adriana López.

López first joined the ERC in January 2011 as Immigrant Rights Project Assistant, and was quickly promoted to Program Coordinator. Prior to joining the ERC, López worked as a Community Outreach Intern for the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrants Rights (Ann Arbor, MI), a Social Policy Intern for the Center for the Education of Women, and a casework intern for Congressman Joe Donnelly (D. Indiana). López holds a Masters of Social Work degree from the University of Michigan, and a B.A. from St Mary’s College in Indiana. Adriana is bi-lingual in Spanish, and has studied or volunteered in Puerto Rico, El Salvador, and Spain.

“My previous work with the immigrant community has given me a strong sense of the needs and the issues faced by many individuals. I look forward to working with the ERC to end discrimination through outreach and testing, while continuing to be an advocate for individuals,” said Gonzalez.

Prior to joining the ERC, Gonzalez served as the Social Services Senior Case Manager in the Anti-Human Trafficking Program at Ayuda, a D.C. based immigrant rights non-profit. Prior to

Ayuda, Gonzalez was a bilingual Domestic Violence Intake Specialist for both Survivors and Advocates For Empowerment, Inc., and Women Empowered Against Violence. Gonzalez holds an M.A. in International Politics with a concentration in Human Rights from American University, and a B.A. from the University of California. Gonzalez is fluent in both Spanish and Italian.

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About the Equal Rights Center (www.equalrightscenter.org)

Originally formed in 1983, the Equal Rights Center (ERC) is a national non-profit civil rights organization based in Washington, D.C. With members located in every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, the ERC works nationally to promote equal opportunity in housing, employment, and access to public accommodations and government services for all protected classes under federal, state, and local laws.