



**For Immediate Release**

Ashley White, Equal Rights Center, 202.370.3204

[awhite@equalrightscenter.org](mailto:awhite@equalrightscenter.org)

## ERC Taps Two Civil Rights Advocates to Lead Disability Rights, and Immigrant Rights Programs

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 6, 2011 — The Equal Rights Center (ERC)—a national non-profit civil rights organization—announced the appointment of two new Program Managers, Disability Rights Program Manager, Kat Taylor, and Immigrant Rights Program Manager, Renee Martinez.

“The Equal Rights Center is incredibly proud to have two outstanding advocates take leadership roles in two of the ERC’s critical program areas,” said the ERC’s Executive Director, Don Kahl. “Kat and Renee have both dedicated their careers to ensuring all individuals are treated equally and I am confident they will take their respective ERC programs to even greater civil rights successes.”

As Program Managers, Taylor and Martinez will lead the ERC’s efforts to end discrimination and advance the civil rights of people with disabilities and immigrant communities. Furthering the ERC’s mission through a multifaceted approach, Taylor and Martinez will be responsible for developing and coordinating education and outreach initiatives, designing and coordinating research, investigations, and testing for their programs, as well as overall program management.

“In the three years I have worked with the ERC, I have witnessed the difference the organization has made in so many lives. I am excited to take the lead in managing the ERC’s disability rights work to raise awareness and increase access for people with disabilities across the country.” said Taylor. “The ERC’s cross-disability approach is both unique and crucial in ensuring a more inclusive society.”

Taylor first joined the ERC as a Disability Rights Program Volunteer, became a Program Assistant, and was most recently the Disability Rights Program Coordinator. In the three years she has been at the ERC, Taylor has passionately worked to expand the capacity and scope of the ERC’s Disability Rights Program. She has organized large scale systemic investigations to determine ADA compliance, led housing investigations to determine discrimination under the Fair Housing Act, and participated in the execution of the ERC’s outreach activities and provided technical support in the ERC’s recent “What’s wrong with these pictures?” educational campaign. Prior to joining the ERC, Taylor interned at a private law firm doing disability work, and with Colorado Legal Services, Family and Children Unit in Denver. Taylor holds a J.D. from the University of Denver College of Law, and a B.A. from Roanoke College.

“I am happy to join the ERC and work directly with the immigrant community to improve civil rights,” said Martinez. “My background as an attorney has given me the legal framework to

understand the complexity of issues this vulnerable community faces, and I am looking forward to working hand-in-hand within the community to further the ERC's mission.”

Martinez brings to the ERC years of expertise serving as counsel and advocating for immigrants' rights. Previously, Martinez was an attorney with Legal Aid of North West Texas, the Legal Action Center of New York, CASA de Maryland, the Nebraska Attorney General's office—where she was the Latino Outreach Coordinator for the state of Nebraska, and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Detroit. Bi-lingual in English and Spanish, Martinez holds a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School, and a B.A. from Yale.

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**About the Equal Rights Center ([www.equalrightscenter.org](http://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 42 states and the District of Columbia, the ERC works nationally to promote equal opportunity in housing, employment, disability rights, immigrant rights, and access to public accommodations and government services for all protected classes under federal, state, and local laws.