



For Immediate Release

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Equal Rights Center Names Seasoned Advocate as New Deputy Director

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 16, 2011– Today the [Equal Rights Center](#) (ERC)—a national non-profit civil rights organization—announced the appointment of a new Deputy Director, Melissa Rothstein.

“The Equal Rights Center is very pleased to announce the creation of a new Deputy Director position and the appointment of Melissa Rothstein.” said the ERC’s Executive Director, Don Kahl. “As the scope and impact of our work continues to grow nationally, it is imperative that we add experienced civil rights advocates, like Melissa, to help ensure the ERC’s leadership in advancing civil rights. Melissa’s combination of legal, social work, and non-profit management experiences makes her an excellent addition to the ERC.”

As the organization’s first Deputy Director, Rothstein will be directly engaged in planning, implementing and supervising the day-to-day operations of the organization.

“I am very excited to be joining the Equal Rights Center in the Deputy Director role,” said Rothstein. “As a civil rights tester for the ERC, I have embraced the organization’s mission over the past two years; I look forward to helping the organization continue to grow and expand its capacity to end discrimination and improve lives.”

Rothstein comes to the ERC from [Just Detention International](#)— a Los Angeles based non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights of incarcerated individuals—where she managed the Washington, DC office and was responsible for overseeing all programmatic, litigation, and policy advocacy work for the organization on the east coast. Prior to her work with Just Detention International, Rothstein was a Senior Staff Attorney and Director of Social Work at the Office of the Appellate Defender in New York, an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Columbia University School of Social Work, and a law clerk for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Rothstein holds a J.D. from Columbia Law School, a M.S. in Social Work from Columbia University School of Social Work, and a B.A. from Hampshire College. Rothstein has also been an ERC tester for more than two years.

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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 33 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.

