



For Immediate Release

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Equal Rights Center Adds New Civil Rights Expertise to Staff

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 14, 2011– Today the [Equal Rights Center](http://www.equalrightscenter.org) (ERC)—a national non-profit civil rights organization—announced the appointment of a new Testing Program Project Assistant, Michael Schoettle, and new Immigrant Rights Project Assistant, Adriana López.

“The Equal Rights Center is excited by the addition of two new employees, and to have their individual backgrounds, education, and expertise contribute to our work and mission,” said the ERC’s Executive Director, Don Kahl. “We are very proud to bring on López in our Immigrant Rights Department, and to announce the expansion of our Testing Program with the appointment of Schoettle.”

As Testing Program Project Assistant, Schoettle will be responsible for developing and implementing testing initiatives, and for the recruitment, screening, training, and managing of testers both locally and throughout the nation. López, in the Immigrant Rights Program, will work to advance civil rights for immigrant communities, in the District and nationwide, utilizing a multifaceted approach which includes immigrant-focused education and outreach, research, investigations and testing.

“I have spent my career studying human rights issues, and working to make an impact,” said Schoettle. “I’m excited to be working within the Testing Program at the Equal Rights Center now, and to be able to use my prior experience and knowledge to conduct research and affect real change for communities across our nation.”

Schoettle joins the ERC after receiving a M.A. in Political Science and Sexual Diversity Studies from the University of Toronto. Additionally, Schoettle acted as an enforcement intern in the Chicago office of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and as a Conflicts Specialist for Wilmer Hale LLP, a national law firm. Schoettle holds a B.A. in Political Science from Kalamazoo College (MI).

“I was really attracted by the ERC’s diverse approach to making change in immigrant communities,” said López. “My background and education are in outreach and community development, so I think my role at the Equal Rights Center will be a great opportunity to continue working with communities while also concentrating my efforts on identifying and remediating patterns of discrimination.”

López recently completed her graduate work to obtain a Masters of Social Work from the University of Michigan, and holds a bachelor’s degree in social work from St. Mary’s College in Indiana. In attaining her degrees, Adriana worked as a Community Outreach Intern for the

Washentaw 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). Adriana is bi-lingual in Spanish, and has studied or volunteered in Puerto Rico, El Salvador, and Spain.

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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.