2017 Impact Report
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Photo submitted by TCRP supporter Luis Villalobos as part of our #WeAreTheBorder campaign. Luis looks out to his community along the Ciudad Juarez-El Paso borderland.
Chair of the Board of Directors
Kenneth S. Marks

Forcing our law enforcement officers to act as the federal government’s new deportation force. Through the threat of jail time against public officials who spoke out and by attempting to scare immigrants into the shadows, state officials hoped to silence any and all dissent.

At the same time, in Washington DC, the new administration announced a commission of election integrity to look into the president’s false and dangerous claim that millions of people had voted illegally in the 2016 election. From the beginning, experts and advocates across the country recognized the effort for what it was: an attempt to justify another wave of policies and laws designed to snatch away our constitutional right to vote. We now know that Texas officials turned over voter data with Hispanic surnames flagged for the commission, underscoring the threat of racial discrimination.

And then, that summer, the powers-that-be came for us. Our efforts to create lasting change sparked a backlash, leading to the abrupt loss of roughly $900,000, from a funder controlled by the state government, as of September 1, 2017. We had been receiving this funding since 1991.

After a barrage of attacks on our communities and against TCRP, I thought everything was lost. But I found hope. Because of you, our team rose to all of these challenges and more. Working in partnership with El Paso County officials and grassroots allies, we sued the state to stop SB4 in its tracks. We also launched the largest and most robust nonpartisan effort in our state’s history to protect and take back the vote. And we continued our efforts to end the all-too-common racial and socio-economic inequities in our criminal justice system.

Instead of closing our doors, we reorganized. Our Immigrant Victims Services (IVS) program was largely absorbed by our allies at Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid while our Austin-based IVS staff created a new nonprofit, the wonderful Lone Star Victims Advocacy Project. These changes ensured that no TCRP client lost services.

And finally, hundreds of our partners joined our call to action through our Fight For Rights Campaign to make up our lost funding. At the end of 2017, I am proud to report, we had a surplus of more than $80,000 and we are planning to expand in 2018.

Texas IS changing. I know it. Those in power know it too, and more importantly, they are afraid of our rising movement for justice and equality in Texas. You are the fuel that keeps our fight going and what follows is an overview of the work you made possible. Stepping into 2018, we are prepared to work even harder to ensure we protect the civil rights of all Texans. Thank you for being a part of our fight.

Mimi Marziani
President of the Texas Civil Rights Project

This year has tested our minds and souls.

When 2017 began, amidst a great deal of fear for the future, we knew that the most vulnerable communities in our state looked to us to lead the way forward. On January 20, 2017, the day of the inauguration, we joined, hand-in-hand, with thousands of our partners and supporters for a march of One Resistance, to recommit ourselves for the long fight ahead.

And we quickly found out just how far certain politicians in our state and in Washington, DC were willing to go to roll back the hard-won civil rights gains we had made. Early in 2017, at the highest levels of the Texas government, officials pushed a sweeping anti-immigrant bill into law —

Kenneth S. Marks
Chair of the Board of Directors

When I stepped into the role of Chair for the Board of Directors of the Texas Civil Rights Project in 2017, I knew we had a long and difficult fight ahead of us to ensure that all Texans can live with dignity, justice, and without fear. And I was confident that with the leadership of our President and all of the staff, we could weather any storm that the year would inevitably send our way.

And I was right.

In 2017, TCRP, and more importantly the rising social justice movement we serve, faced challenge after challenge thrown at us from federal and state officials as well as from Mother Nature, in the form of one of the most devastating natural disasters in our state. And yet, at no point did Mimi and the rest of the staff shrink back.

Instead, we re-organized and re-committed to the fight and, with a new vigor, brought hope to millions of Texans that depend on TCRP for our leadership.

I have no doubt that after 2017, TCRP is in a stronger position to tackle the most pressing social justice issues in our state. We have set the stage for even more achievements in 2018, and this is in large part because of partners like you. We cannot create our vision for a more just and equal Texas without you. Thank you for standing with us and joining the fight.
Our Impact

Legal advocacy to empower Texas communities and create policy change

Photo of the January 20th One Resistance Rally in Austin, Texas. TCRP organized the rally with dozens of other organizations and allies fighting for justice in our state.
Moving the needle forward in 2017

TCRP has long been recognized by our willingness to stand up for the underdog against the State of Texas and other powerful interests. Our track record of bold, creative litigation has also been recognized; for instance, in 2016, we made national headlines with our successful lawsuit against Texas for refusing to provide birth certificates to babies born in Texas to undocumented mothers. Finally, and just as important, we are uniquely homegrown and rooted in Texas. That means we are entirely focused on advancing equality and justice in our own backyard.

We are Texas lawyers for Texas communities, boldly serving the movement for equality and justice in and out of the courts. We use our tools of litigation and legal advocacy to protect and advance the civil rights of everyone in Texas and we partner with communities across the state to serve the rising movement for social justice. We undertake our work with a vision of a Texas in which all communities can thrive with dignity, justice and without fear.

TCRP’s program areas address some of the most pressing social justice problems in Texas — protecting voting rights, advancing racial and economic justice, and reforming our broken criminal justice system. Each program is led by an experienced director who works closely with our other talented attorneys and staff. In 2017, along side you, we fought back against mean-spirited and dangerous attacks against the most vulnerable Texans while pushing forward a progressive vision to transform our state. The following sections provide brief highlights from each of our programs.
For more than a decade, certain politicians have manipulated the rules to keep themselves in power by advancing a dangerous agenda designed to prevent millions of Americans, particularly people of color and low-income communities, from exercising their constitutional right to vote. From a complex web of rules for voter registration to strict voter identification rules that prevent people from casting a ballot; this agenda has gained traction in Texas.

That’s why, when federal officials launched the disingenuous “Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity” in an effort to further suppress the vote, officials in Texas were keen to redouble their efforts. But TCRP is fighting back. Throughout 2017, TCRP has provided litigation and advocacy to support the voting rights movement across the state. Highlights of our work include:

**Enforcing Texas’ high school voter registration laws**

Texas has a unique and little-known state law that requires high schools to register eligible students to vote twice a year. As a matter of course per the law, nearly 340,000 young Texans should be given the opportunity to register to vote in their senior year of high school. However, instead of preparing them for a lifetime of civic participation, the state shirks its responsibility by failing to comply with the law.

Working with state and national allies, TCRP is spearheading a multi-pronged strategy to turn the ship around. Throughout 2017, TCRP worked with state partners to educate parents, teachers, civic organizations, and school administrators about the law and empower them to register their students to vote.

In September of 2017, TCRP and the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law published a groundbreaking report, detailing the startling statistic that only six percent of schools across the state requested voter registration forms from the Secretary of State in the semester leading up to the 2016 presidential election. Coupled with further grassroots advocacy, TCRP shifted the conversation around the issue and brought public accountability to the Secretary of State’s office.

In 2018, TCRP will further expand its efforts by launching a campaign targeting Texas’ largest urban school districts in an effort to significantly improve compliance with the law and create a culture of civic participation in the state’s high schools.
Modernizing voter registration at Texas agencies through litigation

In addition to tackling voter registration problems at our schools, TCRP has set its sights on state agencies that also fail to comply with federal voting rights laws — affecting millions of Texans every year. Currently, we estimate that the Texas electorate is missing 4.4 million voters due to the systemic failures in our voter registration system. TCRP is the only organization targeting state agencies for failing to comply with voting rights laws. Forcing compliance with these laws would result in a large increase and diversification of Texas’ electorate — making the electorate look more like Texas.

In early 2016, TCRP sued the state of Texas for refusing to register the more than 1.4 million Texans who update their information online annually through the Department of Public Safety (DPS) website. This practice violates the U.S. Constitution and the federal “motor voter” law.

On April 3, 2017, a U.S. District Court judge denied the State’s attempt to dismiss the lawsuit after carefully considering, and rejecting, each of the State’s arguments. We expect to resoundingly win our Motion for Summary Judgement in the case in early 2018 — setting the stage for deep changes in DPS’s voter registration practices.

Additionally, TCRP is exploring similar litigation against other state agencies that fail to comply with federal voter registration laws. Forcing compliance with these federal laws will help support the already existing grassroots efforts to ensure that every eligible Texan can cast a ballot that counts.

Coordinating the rising movement for voting rights in Texas

In 2017, TCRP was approached by several community groups concerned about the legal liability for their organizations — and the safety of their members and volunteers — if they continue to coordinate civic engagement activities such as voter registration drives, canvassing and public demonstrations. In response, TCRP embarked on a project designed to educate leaders of community groups about voter registration laws and their First Amendment rights as related to civic engagement activities.

Through our Take back the Vote Campaign, TCRP recruited and trained an elite group of nearly 20 lawyer volunteers — the TCRP Voter Protection Task Force — who will be on call to assist in providing ongoing counsel to these community groups and their volunteers. We also trained half a dozen of the largest organizing groups in Texas, providing a shield against state efforts to undermine community organizing.

Additionally, in November 2017, TCRP, with the support of the Ford Foundation, hosted the historic Take Back the Vote Convening where participants learned about legal and legislative voting rights updates, connected with the Texas Election Protection Coalition, and brainstormed and coordinated joint efforts for 2018. The Convening brought together over 50 nonpartisan attorneys, organizers, and voting rights advocates from across the state and laid the groundwork for providing a strong and robust voting rights movement for the 2018 elections and beyond.

Photo of H. Drew Galloway, Executive Director of MOVE San Antonio, explaining effective strategies to organize young voters at the Take Back the Vote Convening hosted by TCRP in November 2017.
Texas has a long and notorious history of discriminating against its residents due to immutable and arbitrary characteristics. 2017 proved to be one of the harshest years for systemic attacks against people of color, immigrants, and many other vulnerable communities. Riding a wave of anti-immigrant sentiment emanating from Washington, DC, state officials pushed forward a string of legislation and policies designed to strike fear into immigrant communities and suppress resistance to their draconian policies.

However, TCRP was there to fight back. Since our inception, TCRP has stood up for the underdog against the State of Texas and other powerful interests. And because we are homegrown and deeply rooted in Texas communities, we were able to quickly respond when state and federal officials launched their attacks on immigrants, their families and the communities that welcome newcomers. Our highlights include:

**Challenging Texas’ “Show Me Your Papers” law**

During the 2017 Texas legislative session, state officials rammed through one of the strictest and harshest anti-immigrant laws in the country, SB4, despite overwhelming opposition from members of the public, city officials, and law enforcement leaders from across the state.

As written, the law allows law enforcement officers to act as federal immigration officers, punishes dissenting public officials who disagree with the law, and is designed to strike fear into communities and suppress public participation.

On behalf of the community organizing groups the Texas Organizing Project Education Fund and MOVE San Antonio, and in partnership with El Paso County and county officials, including the county sheriff, TCRP filed a lawsuit challenging SB4 — aiming to protect public safety, prevent racial profiling, and protect local law enforcement.

Over the summer of 2017, our case was consolidated under City of El Cenizo, Texas, et al. v. State of Texas, and on August 30, 2017, Judge Orlando Garcia in San Antonio issued an order stopping many major provisions of SB4 from going into effect — including all of its core restrictions. However, after the state appealed the decision to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, a panel of three judges partially overturned Judge Garcia’s order. At the end of 2017, we awaited a further decision on the merits of the appeal.

While we fought in the courtroom, TCRP staff and attorneys also joined our partners for a “Summer of Resistance” against the law. Through advocacy and organizing, the coalition succeed in organizing almost every single major city in Texas to enter litigation against the law — culminating in a large rally in front the federal court in San Antonio during the first hearing in the case that drew in nearly 1,000 community members from across Texas.
Stopping the border wall & protecting landowners

When Donald Trump began his presidential campaign in 2015, he did so promising to build a destructive and unnecessary border wall between Mexico and the United States. So when the administration took office, TCRP was ready to respond.

In April 2017, TCRP launched a campaign against the construction of the border wall by mobilizing the community to understand and know their rights, amplify their voices through the collection and publication of personal stories, and provide legal representation to landowners along the U.S.-Mexico border. We drew from our experiences bringing similar litigation a decade ago when the Bush administration sought construction of a border fence under the Secure Fence Act.

As the administration prepares to begin construction in Texas communities, TCRP will represent as many landowners as possible in the condemnation actions that are a necessary precursor to construction and using our extensive pro bono relationships with law firms and private attorneys across the state to expand our capacity.

Throughout the year, TCRP attorneys and staff participated in a series of meetings on Capitol Hill, including a bipartisan briefing in September 2017 regarding the effects and harms of a potential border wall on landowners and communities in South Texas. We also educated members of the press, affected landowners, and other stakeholders about the negative ramifications of the wall.

Protecting the constitutional rights of immigrants in Texas

The wave of anti-immigrant sentiment across the country has also had very real and negative effects on the everyday lives of immigrants facing our convoluted and broken immigration and asylum system. Since 2008 there has been a fivefold increase in asylum seekers arriving to the country, a large percentage of those arriving to Texas. Instead of finding relief from violence and suffering, they encounter detention, mistreatment, and sometimes violence from those tasked with protecting our country’s borders.

We intervened on behalf of the family of asylum seeker Laura S, who fled her native country escaping the horrendous violence faced by women along the border. However, instead of receiving a full and fair hearing before a qualified immigration judge, she was sent back by federal agents despite knowing she faced extreme danger. As she feared, she was killed a mere four days later. We represent Laura’s children in a lawsuit against the agents who refused to let her see an immigration judge.

These violations of the 5th Amendment are all too common among the thousands of people who encounter our immigration system every day. TCRP has long been a leader in protecting the constitutional rights of immigrants and in 2018 we will continue pursuing litigation against federal immigration agencies that refuse to comply with the constitutional right to a fair legal process for all immigrants and asylum seekers.
The state of Texas has the largest prison population in the nation. And, unsurprisingly, the effects of this massive level of incarceration disproportionately affect people of color, low-income communities, and people with disabilities.

In response, TCRP’s Criminal Justice Reform Program’s litigation and advocacy is focused on ending mass incarceration and abuse in our state, and changing the narrative for our criminal justice system. We do this by targeting all stages of the criminal justice system, from the lack of accountability and bias present in law enforcement, to challenging the inhumane conditions of confinement that only perpetuate mass incarceration and prevent proper care and rehabilitation. Highlights of our work include:

**Challenging unconstitutional debtors’ prisons**

Debtors’ prisons — locking up people for being too poor to pay criminal fines — are constitutionally impermissible yet still widely present in Texas. Debtors’ prisons trap low-income Texans in a spiral of debt and incarceration that prevents people from escaping poverty.

In 2016, TCRP sued the City of El Paso, challenging its practice of incarcerating individuals for their inability to pay fines on Class C misdemeanors — usually parking tickets. The cycle of fines keeps El Pasoans, like our client Carina Canaan, who spent 10 days jailed for unpaid traffic tickets while she was pregnant with her son, trapped in a never-ending cycle of incarceration that throws a wrench into their lives.

The U.S. District Court in charge of TCRP’s case has repeatedly denied the City’s attempts to dismiss the litigation without trial. Additionally, and in response to our lawsuit, the City has embarked on efforts to reform its policies to prevent trapping people in a cycle of poverty and incarceration. We are currently preparing for a trial set for summer of 2018.

In North Texas, TCRP, along with Texas Fair Defense Project, recently sent a letter to municipal officials in White Settlement, Texas, demanding reforms relating to unlawful debtors prison practices observed by TCRP and TDFP in White Settlement Municipal Court.

We have also joined forces with legal, grassroots, and policy groups across Texas to expand our efforts to other jurisdictions and use communications strategies to build a public dialogue on debtors’ prisons and the systemic need for policy reforms.

**Photo by Steven St. John for Buzzfeed News.** Carina Canaan, TCRP’s client, was jailed for 10 days in the main El Paso County jail for unpaid traffic tickets while she was pregnant with her son.
Improving mental health screenings and conditions in Texas prisons

In Texas, it is estimated that well over 30 percent of jail inmates have one or more serious mental illnesses. County officials fail to respond adequately to the needs of this population, both by over-incarcerating individuals with mental illness during the pretrial process and by ignoring best practices in mental health policy, including those set forth by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

One tragic result is jail suicide, which overwhelmingly occurs prior to conviction. Every year, an average of 23 county jail inmates take their own lives — many of these tragedies could have been prevented with adequate screening and care by jail officials.

In mid-2017, TCRP favorably settled a case for the family of Amber May, who was left unmonitored and took her life in the jail despite disclosing her depression to officials. The settlement brought much needed mental health improvements to the jail.

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Promoting critical review of law enforcement practices

Sandra Bland’s death is just one story of a traffic stop turning tragic. In 2017, TCRP joined forces with grassroots and policy groups to advise and recommend changes intended to reduce arrests by law enforcement for traffic violations. TCRP also supported groups aiming to reform police union contracts that have negative impacts on citizens and their right to be protected from police misconduct.

In December 2017, we won a major victory when the Austin City Council unanimously voted to reject a police union contract that impeded accountability and transparency. TCRP will use the experience from this victory to work with other groups across Texas fighting to create law enforcement agencies that are accountable to the people they serve.
Our Reach

The fight both in and out of the courtroom

Photo of the legal team, including TCRP, against the anti-immigrant “show me your papers” law, SB4, giving a briefing to members of the press after a hearing with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, Louisiana.
In order to effect lasting policy change we must also win over hearts and minds. Our work reached well over one million people on social media in 2017.

1,261,482
Engagements on Facebook

496,318
Impressions on Twitter

104,872
TCRP emails read throughout the year

46,281
Unique visitors to texascivilrightsproject.org

42,909
Views of our unique videos

27,802
Impressions on Instagram

Some of TCRP’s social media graphics throughout the year.

Let Students Vote!

The Commission’s efforts will discourage and chill democratic participation. The aim of the Commission’s requests is clear: there will be sustained efforts to restrict the right to vote.

Beth Stevens, Voting Rights Director

BREAKING

Federal judge orders officials to cool down intense heat in Texas prisons.

Report violations
(512) 474-5073
This year, TCRP published four reports and guides and five know your rights videos, including:

- Our know your rights video with netargv.com.
- Our analysis of the problems in the 2016 election.
- Our video explaining the rights of property owners along the border.
- Our explanation of the DACA cancellation for Texas Dreamers.
- Our explanation of the rights of Texans when stopped by the police.
- Our analysis of how Texas high school fail to comply with the high school voter registration law.
In 2017, we expanded and aggressively pushed our message in the press to reach local, state-wide, and national audiences.

We were quoted in 2,274 stories, newscasts, and radio broadcasts, including *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Slate*, *The Houston Chronicle*, *Texas Tribune*, and dozens of others. In full, our media coverage translates to nearly **$17.5 million** in Advertising Value Equivilency.

*(top right) Photo of Efrén Olivares, TCRP’s Racial & Economic Justice Program Director, explaining our work to protect landowners along the border with MSNBC.*

*(bottom right) Photo of Mimi Marziani, President of TCRP, debating the impact of Texas’ draconian voter ID law on the 2016 election on Fox News 7.*
Our Partners

We are all part of the rising social justice movement in Texas

Photo of TCRP volunteer and Racial & Economic Justice Legal Intern, Robert Lopez, assisting young people with their DACA renewal applications in our office in Alamo, Texas.
Launching the Fight for Rights Campaign

For over 26 years, working hand-in-hand with grassroots partners and ordinary people across the state, TCRP has challenged laws and policies that attempt to keep down Texas communities. In and out of court, our bold and creative litigation and advocacy has advanced civil rights and led to systemic reforms. In short, we hold Texas accountable to its people.

That's why, as lawmakers and state officials become increasingly hostile to civil rights and afraid of losing their own positions, we were victim to our own success. Our efforts to create lasting change sparked a backlash, leading to the abrupt loss of roughly $900,000 as of September 1st, 2017. TCRP had been receiving this funding since 1991.

In response, we launched the Fight for Rights Campaign, our broad-based effort to replace our lost funding and ensure that TCRP remains strong and ready to fight back against the inevitable attacks against Texas' most vulnerable communities.

When we launched in September 2017, we received an outpouring of support from partners, supporters, and every-day Texans who see TCRP as a fundamental part of Texas’ rising movement for social justice. TCRP ended 2017 with a surplus of more than $80,000 and we are planning to expand in 2018. This would not have been possible without the over 400 donors from across the country who joined our campaign.

The 2017 Bill of Rights Dinner

After witnessing a grueling roll-back to our hard-won civil rights from state and federal officials intent on attacking our most vulnerable communities, TCRP recommitted for the long-haul fight at our 27th Annual Bill of Rights Dinner.

Joined by hundreds of partners at our annual tradition, the Bill of Rights dinner gave us a time to reflect and celebrate our victories in 2017 — those victories came in large part from our partners; the community advocates, our pro bono attorneys, business leaders, and hundreds of others who are committed to being bold and creative in our fight to protect the civil rights of all Texans.

This year, TCRP honored Pamela S. Karlan, a Stanford Law professor, with the 2017 James C. Harrington Social Justice Award for her tireless pursuit of justice for Texans at the Supreme Court.

Additionally, TCRP honored Mark Strama, the Head of Google Fiber Operations in Austin, with the Renato Ramirez Community Empowerment Award, Austin City Council Member Greg Casar with the Rising Leader Award, and Andy Lippstone, of FSEC Management LLC, Rick Yeoman of Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody PC, Allissa Pollard and Brett Solberg, of DLA Piper, with the Kristi Couvillon Pro Bono Awards. These honorees went above and beyond their duties and commitment to Texas’ most vulnerable communities and we were honored to recognize their achievements.
Introducing Generation Justice

In 2017, TCRP saw a flood of people interested in getting involved and supporting the fight for justice in Texas. In response, TCRP launched a new effort to engage the next generation of leaders in our communities.

Generation Justice is TCRP’s effort to harness the passions of young people ready to fight back. We kicked off the program with a launch party in Austin, Texas which was attended by nearly 100 young supporters and advocates interested in getting involved.

In 2018, TCRP will expand the program to other cities in Texas and grow the number of young people supporting our work throughout the state.
TCRP depends heavily on pro bono **partnerships** to expand the reach of our legal advocacy. Our pro bono opportunities are diverse, ranging from research projects to civil rights trials to appellate work. Thank you to the law firms and lawyers who were part of our pro bono network in 2017:

- Baker Donelson
- Blackburn & Brown, LLP
- DLA Piper
- Edwards Law
- Fish & Richardson
- Flores Tawney & Acosta, PC
- Garcia & Garcia Attorneys at Law, PLLC
- Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody
- Haynes and Boone, LLP
- John Escamilla Law Firm
- King & Spalding, LLP
- Law Office of Carlos Eduardo Cardenas, PC
- Law Office of Enrique Moreno
- Morgan, Lewis & Bockius
- Mukerji Law Firm
- Norton Rose Fulbright
- Reynolds Frizzell, LLP
- Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, LLP
- Scott, Douglass & McConnico, LLP
- The Law Office of Lynn Coyle, PLLC
- The Nielsen Law Firm
- The Singley Law Firm, PLLC
- Vinson & Elkins, LLP
- Waters Kraus & Paul
- Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP
- Williams, Birnberg & Andersen, LLP

Photo of the family of Kristi Couvillon presenting an award to Alissa Pollard and Brett Soldberg of DLA Piper, for their work on *Hastings v. Williams*, a lawsuit on behalf of inmate Larry Hastings, who suffered from excessive force by officers. The award is named after Kristi Couvillon, a former TCRP law clerk, and is awarded at our Bill of Rights Dinner.
Our law clerks are a critical part of TCRP. Law clerks assist our attorneys with every aspect of our work, from investigating potential cases and crafting strategic advocacy plans to preparing complaints, assisting with discovery, briefing dispositive motions, and trying cases in federal and state court.

ANNIE MELTON
Brooklyn Law School
2017 Law Clerk

“I left journalism for law school because I wanted to enhance my understanding of the social and economic justice issues I constantly encountered as a reporter, and become more directly involved in remediating them. Clerk ing at TCRP allowed me to tackle many of these issues head-on. I’m thankful for the opportunity to have closely worked with my peers and I’m excited to work with and fight for my fellow Texans.”
Our Financials

The Texas Civil Rights Project’s financial activities for our 2017 Fiscal Year which began January 1, 2017 and ended on December 31, 2017.

* Final numbers are subject to small changes pending our annual audit.
Texas Civil Rights Project 2017 Staff

Mimi Marziani, President  
Efrén C. Olivares, Racial & Economic Justice Director  
Beth Stevens, Voting Rights Director  
Natalia Cornelio, Criminal Justice Reform Director  
Stephanie Schweitzer Garza, Development Director  
Krissi Trumeter, Finance Director  
Zenén Jaimes Pérez, Communications Director  
Hani Mirza, Regional Legal Director  
Cassandra Champion, Staff  Attorney  
Emma Hilbert, Staff  Attorney  
Wallis Nader, Staff  Attorney  
Hannah Herzog, Equal Justice Works Fellow / Attorney  
Brooke Bischoff, Equal Justice Works Fellow / Attorney  
Peter Steffensen, Justice Catalyst Fellow / Attorney  
Rolando Pérez, Legal Manager  
Megan Garcia, Accounting and H.R. Assistant  
Melissa Elfont, Operations Coordinator  
Georgina Guzman, Paralegal / Office Manager  
Chris Rainbolt, Paralegal / Office Manager  
Christopher Rivera, Paralegal / Office Manager

Texas Civil Rights Project 2017 Board of Directors

Kenneth S. Marks, Chair  
Carlos Moctezuma Garcia, Vice-Chair  
M. Kyle Wright  
Tom Gutting  
Rita Lucido  
Alan Schoenbaum

Outgoing Board Members:  
Pablo J. Almaguer  
Roxann Thomas Chargois  
Mandy S. Price

and welcome to our incoming 2018 board members

Melissa Fruge  
Oscar Rodriguez  
Gina Karam Millin
For 27 years, working hand-in-hand with grassroots partners and ordinary people across the state, TCRP has challenged laws and policies that attempt to keep down Texas communities, gaining a much-deserved reputation for being bold and creative in and out of court. We are, uniquely, Texas lawyers for Texas communities. Join us.

1. Make a contribution

You can fight for the rights of Texas’ communities by donating to the Texas Civil Rights Project. Donations to TCRP directly support our legal advocacy both in and out of the courtroom and are tax deductible. Learn more at http://texascivilrightsproject.org/donate/

To give by mail, please make a check payable to the Texas Civil Rights Project and mail it to:
Texas Civil Rights Project
Attn: Development Department
1405 Montopolis Dr.
Austin, TX 78741

There are many ways to give, explore more options at texascivilrightsproject.org/get-involved/ways-to-give or contact us at development@texascivilrightsproject.org or at (512) 474-5073 ext. 102.

2. Get involved

Our fight for rights is fueled by people just like you. From internships to our pro bono network, there are many ways to get involved. Learn more at texascivilrightsproject.org

3. Join the conversation

facebook.com/TexasCivilRightsProject
twitter.com/txcivilrights
instagram.com/txcivilrights

Sign up for email updates and more information texascivilrightsproject.org