



# CALIFORNIA RURAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE, INC.

FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE, CHANGING LIVES

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## **Governor Appoints CRLA's Deputy Director as Chief of The Immigration Branch of DSS Dan Torres named Chief of the Immigration Branch of Department of Social Services**

**OAKLAND, CA-** California Rural Legal Assistance Inc., (CRLA) Deputy Director of New Initiatives and Programs, Dan Torres, has been appointed Chief of the Immigration Branch by Governor Jerry Brown of California.

“CRLA is stronger because of Dan’s leadership and his work will have a lasting impact on CRLA and our clients,” said Marcela Ruiz, Deputy Director of CRLA, on behalf of the organization. “We will miss working with Dan as a colleague at CRLA, but we know we have a life-long friend committed to improving the lives of vulnerable communities in California.”

Mr. Torres will be taking on a newly created, governor-appointed position of Chief of Immigration Branch within California Department of Social Services. Mr. Torres’ role is to oversee California’s immigration programs including naturalization services, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program, and other programs that provide immigration remedies.

Jose Padilla, Executive Director of CRLA, said, “Dan continues CRLA’s legacy of helping develop young Latino lawyers into leaders of California. Dan is following in the footsteps of CRLA alumni that have taken leadership positions in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of our state. We are proud of him.”

Mr. Torres became CRLA’s Deputy Director of New Initiatives and Programs in January 2014. In this role he worked to develop new initiatives to advance CRLA’s mission and traditional priorities-employment and labor, housing, education, and civil rights. In addition, he worked to strengthen CRLA’s immigration legal advocacy and services to other immigrant communities.

Mr. Torres started at CRLA in 2010 as the LGBT Program Director. Under his leadership the LGBT Program went from a regional farmworker program, into a statewide initiative with national recognition for its civil rights advocacy on behalf of the LGBT community. This work with LGBT communities is now a model for similar advocacy in other legal aid programs in California, as well as Texas and Georgia.



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Prior to CRLA, Mr. Torres worked at as a Staff Attorney with the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and CRLA Foundation in Sacramento. In addition, he worked as a Clinical Instructor at the UC Davis School of Law Immigration Law Clinic. Mr. Torres received his B.A. at University of Washington and his J.D. at UC Davis School of Law.

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*Founded in 1966, CRLA's mission is to fight for justice and individual rights alongside the most exploited communities of our society. CRLA provides legal services to nearly 44,000 low-income people annually. Our work impacts farmworkers, individuals with disabilities, immigrant populations, LGBT communities, women, children and families in rural areas.*

For more information on CRLA, please visit: [www.crla.org](http://www.crla.org).