

L A T C R I T I N C .

LATINA AND LATINO CRITICAL LEGAL THEORY, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Professor Steven Bender
(415) 565-4658
sbender@law.uoregon.edu

Professor Sumi Cho
(312) 362-8082
scho@condor.depaul.edu

Professor Roberto Corrada
(303) 871-6273
rcorrada@adm.law.du.edu

Professor Jerome Culp
(919) 613-7097
cup@faculty.law.duke.edu

Professor Nancy Ehrenreich
(303) 871-6256
nehrenre@mail.law.du.edu

Professor Angela Harris
(203) 643-6354
aharris@boalt.berkeley.edu

Professor Berta Hernandez-Truyol
(352) 846-0934
hernandez@law.ufl.edu

Professor Elizabeth Iglesias
(305) 284-4050
iglesias@law.miami.edu

Professor Guadalupe Luna
(612) 624-2516
lunax003@tc.umn.edu

Professor Pedro Malavet
(352) 392-2234
malavet@law.ufl.edu

Professor Margaret Montoya
(505) 277-3010
montoya@law.unm.edu

Celina Romany, Esq.
(787) 309-3801
croma@caribe.net

Professor Mary Romero
(602) 965-4529
Mary.romero@ASU.EDU

Professor Francisco Valdes
(305) 284-1780
fvaldes@law.miami.edu

Professor Robert Westley
(504) 862-8801
rwestley@law.tulane.edu

CHECKS AND BILLING

LatCrit, Inc.

Treasurer Steven Bender, Esq.
P.O. Box 248243
Coral Gables, FL 33124
(541) 346-3851 FAX (541) 346-1564

January 31, 2003

FROM: LatCrit Board of Directors
Steve Bender, Sumi Cho, Roberto Corrada, Jerome Culp,
Nancy Ehrenreich, Angela Harris, Berta Hernandez-Truyol,
Elizabeth Iglesias, Guadalupe Luna, Pedro Malavet,
Margaret Montoya, Celina Romany, Mary Romero,
Frank Valdes, Robert Westley

TO: LatCrit Community and Friends

RE: Co-Chair Selection Results and Update on Active Programs
and Upcoming Events

Dear Friends and Colleagues

Please join us in congratulating Angela Harris and Berta Hernandez-Truyol on their selection by acclamation as LatCrit Co-Chairs! In addition, the Board also selected Margaret Montoya to fill a vacancy on the Board to help facilitate the development of a project designed to “translate” LatCrit and other outsider texts for use in K-12 settings. As you will see below, both the K-12 project proposed by Margaret and the priorities emphasized by Angela and Berta in their joint platform are synergistic with our recent programmatic efforts, which in the past several years have taken us beyond the annual conferences, symposia and related events. In general, these recent initiatives have focused on two overlapping themes: (1) promoting critical “outsider” theories of law and policy in comparative and international frameworks and (2) creating formal substantive opportunities for critical legal education among law students and other interested constituencies. Looking ahead, and as described below, we now have a rich and growing portfolio of active projects – after reviewing this Community Report, please let us know if you are interested in working with us on any existing or proposed project.

CO-CHAIR SELECTION PROCESS AND STATUS QUO

After receiving your co-chair nominations in mid-January, the Board invited the nominees to accept/decline their nominations and to submit a “platform” pursuant to the third selection criterion that we used in this process (and which we sent to you with previous emails). The joint platform that Angela and Berta submitted to the Board, and which

LATCRIT, INC. • LATINA AND LATINO CRITICAL LEGAL THEORY, INC. • P.O. BOX 248243, CORAL GABLES, FL 33124

PROF. BERTA HERNANDEZ-TRUYOL
U. OF FLORIDA COLLEGE OF LAW
CO-CHAIR

PROF. ANGELA HARRIS
U. OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY
CO-CHAIR

PROF. FRANCISCO VALDÉS
U. OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW
CO-CHAIR

PROF. ROBERTO CORRADA
U. OF DENVER COLLEGE OF LAW
SECRETARY

PROF. STEVEN BENDER
U. OF OREGON SCHOOL OF LAW
TREASURER

provides the substantive basis of their selection as Co-Chairs, follows at the end of this message so that you may review for yourself the plans and proposals on which they plan to focus their time and energy as Co-Chairs. To accommodate the three co-chair structure, we are in the process of formally amending our bylaws but, as of now, Angela and Berta already are working with our incumbent Co-Chair, Frank Valdes, and our Secretary and Treasurer, Roberto Corrada and Steve Bender, respectively, to help consolidate existing or ongoing programs, to develop and launch projects already in the pipeline, and to spearhead new collective or programmatic initiatives.

As you know, this co-chair selection process began last November, when Lisa Iglesias announced to the Board her resignation, and since then we have developed the co-chair selection criteria to provide a common substantive basis for an open community co-chair selection process. As part of this open process, we conducted informational meetings and an Open Community Forum on transition and other community or programmatic issues, like the CGC and SSP, in the LatCrit Hospitality Suite during the AALS meeting in Washington, DC. After the Washington events, we sent emails to circulate the selection criteria and invite community-wide nominations for co-chair. This deliberative group process has been absolutely successful: in the three months since November, this process not only has generated increased communication amongst us and produced excellent results, but it also has occasioned the suggestion of moving formally to a three co-chairs structure, a timely move in light of our expanding portfolio of active projects – as you can see from the brief update that follows immediately below.

THE LATCRIT STUDENT SCHOLAR PROGRAM (SSP)

First, we are pleased to report that the LatCrit Student Scholar Program (SSP), which we launched in the fall in partnership with the University of California Boalt Hall School of Law, attracted 22 submissions from three continents and across various disciplines in both Spanish and English. As per the SSP guidelines, the papers submitted focus on race and ethnicity, and range from issues ranging from special assessment districts to the dispossession of Mexican landowners in California to sexual orientation and cultural orientalist fantasies. Based on the timely-submitted papers, personal statements and related application materials, the SSP Award Selection Committee will designate up to four Student Scholars by March 7th, who will be offered scholarships to present their papers at the Eighth Annual LatCrit Conference and have them published in Cleveland Marshall Law Review as part of the LatCrit VIII conference symposium. In addition, the Student Scholars will be offered scholarships to enroll in the Critical Global Classroom, a summer program described immediately below, as well as a one-year Mentoring Program tailored to the publication of a second scholarly paper. The SSP is administered by Angela Harris, and the SSP Award Selection Committee, which already is reviewing the papers and applications, additionally includes Elvia Arriola, Berta Hernandez-Truyol, Jerome Culp, Margaret Montoya, Stephanie Wildman and Eric Yamamoto. For more information on the SSP, please visit the LatCrit website at www.latcrit.org and/or contact Angela Harris directly at aharris@law.berkeley.edu.

**THE CRITICAL GLOBAL CLASSROOM STUDY-ABROAD PROGRAM (CGC)
AND THE LATCRIT COLLOQUIUM ON INTERNATIONAL AND
COMPARATIVE LAW**

You'll be receiving, via email and snail mail, the informational materials for the Critical Global Classroom, a unique study-abroad program devoted to law, policy and social justice activism, that we are launching this summer (July 6 – August 15) in Chile and Argentina in partnership with the University of Baltimore School of Law. The CGC employs an innovative “menu” of academic activities, including an optional service component, that is organized around the critical study of five key themes: colonialism, identity/minority issues, economic structures, constitutionalism/rule of law, and the impact of, and alternatives to, dominant patterns of corporate globalization. In addition, students will attend the three-day LatCrit Colloquium on International and Comparative Law, which will take place in Buenos Aires on August 10-15, 2003 (mark your calendar now, and we'll send you more Colloquium information, including hotel and registration materials, later this semester). Students earn eight credits. Please keep a look-out for the CGC materials, and when they arrive please review and circulate or post them to help us identify, and reach out to, the handful of students in your institution who are most likely to benefit from the CGC: students who are seriously interested in law, policy and social justice activism in international and comparative frameworks. The CGC is administered by Odeana Neal, together with a “project team” of LatCrit scholars including Peggy Maisel, Hugo Rojas, Roberto Rosenthal, Carolina Stefoni, Frank Valdes and Robert Westley. For more information, please write directly to the CGC at CGC@ubalt.edu and/or contact Odeana Neal directly a oneal@ubalt.edu.

**THE EIGHTH ANNUAL LATCRIT CONFERENCE (LATCRIT VIII)
AND THIRD ANNUAL LATCRIT PLANNING RETREAT**

You also should soon be receiving the program and registration for LatCrit VIII – the Eighth Annual LatCrit Conference, which will take place May 1-4, 2003 in Cleveland, Ohio. This year's conference theme is City and Citizen: Operations of Power, Strategies of Resistance. The responses to the Call for Papers and Participation has been terrific, as you will see from the program schedule, which you should be receiving via both email and hard copy soon (hard copies in mid February), and we hope to see you in Cleveland this May. Once again, we are providing Child Care Services and inviting conference attendees to sign up for works-in-progress presentations: please look for the forms relating to these and similar specific issues or events. Also, for the third year in a row, the annual conference will be followed by the two-and-half day Annual LatCrit Planning Retreat, which will convene on Monday, May 5th – the day after the conference concludes – at a nearby site to focus on projects, programs and plans such as the ones we describe here. If you are interested in working on collaborative projects like these, please plan to stay for this Planning Retreat. There is no additional charge or fee for attending and participating in the Planning Retreat. Please look for the Retreat Pre-Registration Form that will be included in the LatCrit VIII conference materials that you should be receiving (in hard copy) by mid February. Plan ahead to join us! For more information

on the upcoming LatCrit VIII conference, please visit the LatCrit website at www.latcrit.org and/or contact this year's conference co-chair, Tayyab Mahmud, at tayyab.mahmud@law.csuohio.edu.

THE NEW AND JUNIOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT LATCRIT WORKSHOP

This year, in conjunction with the annual conference, we also are inaugurating the New and Junior Faculty Development Workshop, which will take place the day and half before the LatCrit VIII conference begins – there are no extra charges or fees for attendance or participation in this new event. This new event is designed both to aid new and junior faculty in navigating the shoals of the legal academy as well as to help cultivate new generations of critical scholars and scholarship. We hope you will aim to join us for this important event as part of your LatCrit VIII travel plans. The New and Junior Faculty Development Workshop is being organized principally by Frank Rudy Cooper, who also will be spearheading the planning of next year's LatCrit conference (LatCrit IX, May 2004) in Philadelphia. Please look for the Workshop information in the upcoming conference materials, which will be arriving in your mailbox by the middle of February – and please note that the conference and hotel registrations are separate, even though the deadlines for each are the same: March 30th. In the meantime, for more information on this new Workshop, please contact Frank Rudy Cooper directly at Cooper@law.villanova.edu.

IN THE PIPELINE – PROJECTS, PROGRAMS, PROPOSALS AND PLANS

In the addition to the portfolio of programs and projects outlined above, you will notice from Angela's and Berta's joint platform that other proposals and plans also are in the works ... such as the LatCrit Law Journal, a peer-review law review proposed to us recently by the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico as a collaborative project, the LatCrit NGO project, which the Board approved two years ago and is ripe for activation, and the K-12 project, which Margaret Montoya has proposed and agreed to spearhead. We will update everyone on these events during the conference in Cleveland this May, and then follow up periodically via email with "Community Reports" similar to this one to help make sure that we all stay in better touch with each other. In the meantime, if you are interested in becoming involved in any of the above projects, or want to propose new ones that we might undertake in collaborative, community-building ways, please contact one or more of us directly so that we can follow up in a timely way.

After reviewing Angela's and Berta's joint platform, which follows immediately below in italics, please remember to download and review the CGC attachment, and PLEASE help us reach out to the social justice students in your institution in a timely and efficient way so that they can take advantage of the opportunities in critical legal education presented by the CGC ... abrazos!

**JOINT PLATFORM OF ANGELA HARRIS AND BERTA HERNANDEZ,
JANUARY 2003**

Dear Friends/Board Members,

First, we want to thank you for the trust and confidence your nominations of us show. As Frank has posted, we have chatted and we would like to work as LatCrit co-chairs together with Frank. We think that our ideas are synergistic in various ways, and that the novel proposal we present actually will allow us to maximize our ability to continue LatCrit's substantive and programmatic evolution organically.

Angela is primarily interested in fostering LatCrit's scholarship projects. Frank and Lisa have co-authored several reflective essays that set forth LatCrit's research missions from a theoretical perspective. There are now at least two very concrete scholarship initiatives that LatCrit is ready to embark on, or recently has -- the Student Scholar Program, which Angela is currently administering in its first year, and the prospect of a LatCrit "house" journal to be sponsored by the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico. These projects, one focused on student scholarship and one principally on faculty scholarship, have the potential to be interdisciplinary vehicles not only for the wider dissemination of LatCrit ideas but for building a pipeline of critical, progressive, engaged scholarship on intersections of power and privilege. These are the two concrete collective projects to which Angela will devote her principal efforts. In addition, Angela is interested in working with Margaret Montoya on the development of a K-12 curriculum on race and ethnicity. As Randall Robinson has argued, the project of reparations for United States slavery and colonial domination in the Americas must involve cultural transformation. Education and scholarship are crucial to this cultural transformation: that is the project to which Angela is committed, and to which she will dedicate her time as co-chair.

Because of Berta's interest in matters international, many of which are already in place or in development, this is the area on which she'd like to focus. Specifically, she would work towards securing NGO consultative status with ECOSOC for LatCrit so that we can participate actively, formally and substantively not only in international and regional conferences but also at UN meetings on matters relevant to LatCrit theory and praxis. In addition, she would like to continue to develop the international contacts and initiatives that have been started, particularly so that LatCrit can continue to enrich its substantive knowledges of cross/intra cultural ties that bind us. Berta will also work with Frank and the existing project teams to follow up with the established CGC program, including the planning of the International and Comparative Law Colloquium, as well developing the Policy and Theory Institute that has been proposed in partnership with Celina Romany's Ford Foundation project on Race, Ethnicity and Gender in the Americas. In sum, she proposes to concentrate her tenure as co-chair in consolidating and developing the LatCrit portfolio of international programs.

We hope that in light of the above description of what we would like to accomplish as a team, you will let us serve as co-chairs with Frank. We know our proposal is a novel idea, but we think it will be a productive one in many synergistic ways. Again, thank you

for your continued trust and support. We all will be working together in this transition to strengthen and grow our community and its projects as we always have – a form of collective and communal LatCrit praxis. Thanks for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted, Angela and Berta

This concludes Angela's and Berta's joint platform, which we hope helps to update you on the vibrancy of our ongoing work and the brightness of our future ... while we never can lose sight of the fact that LatCrit, like other experiments in outsider jurisprudence, is a fragile enterprise that remains perpetually "under construction," we also should pause from time to time, as a community, to reflect on the progress and trajectory of our collaborative endeavors. With this brief Community Report, we hope both to bring you up to date on programmatic developments as well as to invite you to become actively involved with any of the above projects in which you may have a special or specific interest.

Abrazos y paz to all,
The LatCrit Board