



# Community Activism Law Alliance

## MISSION

**CALA unites lawyers and activists in a collaborative pursuit for justice by leveraging legal services to benefit the most marginalized communities and individuals.**

**CALA is changing legal aid. We are changing how lawyers and communities work together. Our lawyers work with activists to help their communities access justice and pursue social change.**



## COMMUNITY ACTIVISM LAWYERING MODEL

CALA'S community activism lawyering model addresses the funding and impact limitations in legal aid programs. In conventional legal services organizations, lawyers operate from their offices—often downtown, where individual clients come and receive services if they meet the guidelines established by the organization.

CALA's model is community-located, community-collaborative, and community-directed. We leverage the resources of partner activist organizations and their communities to develop our activism-law clinics. We use free, existing neighborhood spaces, and the community provides staffing, language and administrative support, and office supplies. Our partners decide the hours, areas of law, priority areas, eligibility criteria, location, and types of services. CALA's lawyers help individual clients like other lawyers, but we do so in partnership with and while empowering our partners. Our attorneys balance individual cases with projects supporting our partners' activism work. Thus, we change how lawyers and legal aid operate, develop a new paradigm for grassroots activism, and achieve systemic change through our community activism collaborations.





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## WHY COMMUNITY ACTIVISM LAWYERING?

**Access for Underserved Populations:** CALA brings law offices directly to populations that are currently underserved. Our partners connect us to clients and facilitate our integration into their communities.

**Strengthened Capacity for Grassroots Community Organizations:** Our activism-law clinics strengthen the capacity of our partners by offering legal support for their activism work, both directly and by connecting them to additional pro bono resources.

**Greater Social Change Impact:** At the core of CALA's collaboration with its partners is our leveraging of their participation in social movements. Our lawyers work with our partners on large-impact social change projects.

**Empowerment of Communities Served:** CALA's model demands that communities and their members are directly involved with their own problem-solving, not only individually on cases but as communities by supporting their community's legal clinic and participating in community activism.

**Financial Efficiency:** CALA's clinics cost significantly less: we receive free office space; administrative, language, and clerical support; and contributions of equipment and supplies from our communities.



## SELF-HELP COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

In addition to our clinics, our Self-Help Community Workshops Program assists hundreds of people per year. Approximately twice per month, we hold *pro-se* workshops where we educate, train, and help people obtain, on their own, important legal remedies. These benefits include DACA status (protection from deportation) and employment authorization, citizenship, expungement or sealing of criminal records, and advance parole.

## LEGAL CLINICS

Each of CALA's community partnerships targets a specific population of low-income individuals. CALA's attorneys provide a full range of services at each clinic, including full representation, advice, self-advocacy assistance, pro bono support, training, and pro-se workshops. CALA's services help clients address a variety of legal issues including family law issues, immigration, housing, domestic violence, employment issues, and criminal records. The makeup of the specific services CALA provides to clients varies among each of our clinics:



**Mano a Mano**  
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER





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## CALA TEAM



**LAM NGUYEN HO -  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FOUNDER**



**DEANNE MEDINA -  
SUPERVISING ATTORNEY**



**CHAD BAKER-  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIPS**



**ANTONIO GUTIERREZ-  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**



**CHAD WYCKOFF-  
GENERAL COUNSEL**



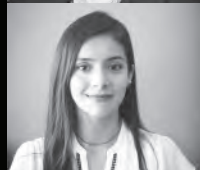
**JESSE CORDERO-  
LEAD VOLUNTEER AND  
LANGUAGE COORDINATOR**



**HANA VAN DRIL-  
STAFF ATTORNEY**



**PRISCILLA ORTA-  
STAFF ATTORNEY**



**ADRIANA BALLINES-  
STAFF ATTORNEY**



**PERLA TIRADO-  
STAFF ATTORNEY**



**JESSICA HERNANDEZ-  
STAFF ATTORNEY**



**ERIK FRANK-  
HELPLINE COORDINATOR**





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CALA'S FIRST 3 YEARS

38 #Not1More

Deportation Campaigns

DIRECT LEGAL SERVICES TO:

2730+ Families

SELF-HELP WORKSHOPS & OUTREACH FOR:

2250+ Clients

EDUCATION TO:

1040+ People

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
EFFORTS SUPPORTED:

110 Projects

Thousands of people  
impacted





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Lawyering Beyond Boundaries...